

Arafat recovering, receives visitors

TUNIS (AP) — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat was recovering Friday from a throat infection that had raised concern about his health when he was grappling with problems in establishing Palestinian self-rule in Gaza and Jericho. Mr. Arafat fell ill Wednesday, and Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) officials and diplomats at first said doctors were contemplating flying him to Jordan for treatment. But visitors said the 64-year-old PLO chairman appeared to be getting better and resumed some of his duties Friday. Among his appointments was a two-hour interview and lunch with television anchorman Dan Rather of the American network CBS. The interview had been set for Wednesday, but was cancelled when Mr. Arafat was taken to Tunis hospital for a medical checkup after feeling tired and ailing. "He looked good and energetic, but had a slight cough," Mr. Rather told the Associated Press. Mr. Rather said Arafat's wife, Suha, attended the session and that the PLO chief mocked her English because of a remark she made Thursday saying he had "angina," which could mean a heart condition.

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Iraqi Baathists get powers to curb

prices

BAGHDAD (R) — President Saddam Hussein, who has taken personal charge of sanctions-racked Iraq's government, is mobilising members of his ruling Baath Party in the fight against soaring prices and runaway inflation. State-run newspapers reported on Friday that President Saddam had authorised party branches and divisions to send shopkeepers and traders who violate government price guidelines to jail — powers normally exercised by the prime minister and judiciary. Baghdad traders said President Saddam, who took over the job of prime minister on Monday, had been touring markets in his field marshal's uniform, talking to ordinary people and merchants about ways of reducing prices. A young infiltrating government-determined prices faces jail terms of up to one year. If they offend again they risk losing their licence and having their shops closed.

That police arrest Iranian suspect

BANGKOK (AFP) — Thai police said they arrested Friday one of the Iranians suspected of a role in an attempt to car-bomb the Israeli embassy in Bangkok last March. Authorities said they seized Hussein Shanriari, 25, a day after he entered the southern town of Hat Yai from Malaysia. He was flown to Bangkok on Friday and produced at a police news conference. Police launched a hunt for two Iranians after they uncovered a gigantic homemade bomb in a truck that had been involved in an accident near the Israeli embassy on March 11.

U.S. plans sanctions against El Al

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. government's Department of Transportation is moving to cut the number of flights the Israeli airline El Al is allowed in the United States because Israel is refusing to allow World Airways, an American firm, to serve Tel Aviv. Proposed sanctions against El Al were announced Thursday by the department, to take effect June 22. On that date El Al would be required to reduce its New York-Tel Aviv service by three flights per week. The airline has a week to object to the sanctions. World, based in Herndon, Virginia, had planned to institute three weekly flights on that route starting June 29, but was refused by the Israeli government. With the proposed reduction, El Al would be limited to 17 weekly flights from New York to Tel Aviv and 15 flights from Tel Aviv to New York, down from 20 and 18.

Israel gets 500,000th ex-Soviet refugee

TEL AVIV (AFP) — The 500,000th immigrant to arrive from the former Soviet Union since the floodgates opened in 1989 slipped unnoticed into Israel this week, the government's central bureau of statistics said Friday. The person was not identified by the bureau which noted that recent immigrants from the old Soviet empire now account for 10 per cent of Israel's population. Among the newcomers, 57,000 are qualified engineers, 12,000 doctors or scientists, 12,000 nurses and 12,000 musicians or writers. However, most have failed to find work to suit their qualifications.

Blast kills 3 in San Francisco

SAN FRANCISCO (AFP) — Three men were killed and at least four other people were injured late Thursday when an explosion wrecked a three-story building here showering debris over a wide area. The explosion, which fire department officials say may have been caused by a natural gas leak, sent flames leaping into the night sky above the city's Tenderloin district. It took an hour to contain the blaze.

Yemenis accept U.N. call, but continue war

Combined agency dispatches

RIVAL YEMENI army units fought an artillery battle near the southern stronghold of Aden on Friday, despite both sides' acceptance of a U.N. Security Council call for a ceasefire.

The duel took place around the village of Lahj, around 30 kilometres north of Aden, a day after troops loyal to President Ali Abdullah Saleh edged closer to this port city, reports said.

Southern anti-aircraft guns in Aden also went into action, but no missile or bomb explosion was heard.

Mr. Saleh's northern forces have mounted "fierce offensives on all fronts, destroying villages and killing civilians," charged the southern command of the president's rival, Mr. Beidh.

"We are resisting with all our strength to protect our land and our honour," it said.

The south also renewed a charge that Iraqi soldiers were fighting alongside the northerners. Five Iraqis were captured in the oil region of Shabwa, 300 kilometres northeast of Aden, it said.

Mr. Beidh's self-declared Yemen Democratic Republic also renewed its acceptance of Security Council Resolution 924 calling for a ceasefire in the month-long civil war.

(QNA)

Under the ceasefire mission, the former Algerian foreign minister is in charge of a U.N. fact-finding mission to Yemen.

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak telephoned both Mr. Saleh and Mr. Beidh asking them to call a halt to the fighting, Cairo Radio reported.

He called them late Thursday and urged them to withdraw their forces from the combat zones as a first step towards resolving the crisis.

Syrian President Hafez Al-Assad also called the Yemeni rivals on Thursday urging them to settle their differences.

Political and diplomatic sources in Sanaa said the northern government has sent fresh troops, estimated at up to five brigades, to fronts around Aden.

"This band of secessionists has shown once more that it is determined to pursue the bloodshed to impose secession by force," he charged.

The south on Thursday formed a cabinet headed by Haidar Abu Bakr Al Attas, appointed prime minister of the breakaway state, a day after the Security Council resolution.

A senior northern official, meanwhile, welcomed the appointment of Lakhdar Ibrahim as U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali's special envoy to Yemen.

Mr. Ibrahim is a "respected Arab figure and capable of carrying out this mission," Abdul Aziz Ahmad Ghani, a member of the presidential council, said in an interview with the Qatari News Agency

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Israel masses troops for possible strike at Lebanon

Tension mounts, peace process threatened after Israeli raid kills 50.

Combined agency dispatches

echoing across the hills. U.N. spokesman Timur Goksel said one Hizbullah fighter was killed and two Fijian peacekeepers were wounded, one seriously, in three firefights in southern Lebanon. The U.N. vowed revenge for the dead Lebanese guerrillas.

The violence, ignited by an Israeli air raid a day earlier, strained a 10-month ceasefire and Middle East peace talks.

After a night in bomb shelters and secure rooms, hundreds of civilians fled southern Lebanon and Israelis in droves cancelled weekend bookings at northern resorts.

The exodus began after Israel responded to the dozens of Katyusha rockets fired overnight with howitzers. Its fighters swooped low over southern Lebanon, sonic booms

Hebron, about 100 activists protesting the air raid threw rocks at 30 Israeli soldiers who responded with tear-gas and rubber-coated metal bullets. A leaflet from the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) vowed revenge for the dead

Lebanese guerrillas.

Lebanon observed a complete shutdown to mourn the victims of Thursday's air raid. Public and private institutions, schools, banks and shops closed down in Muslim and Christian areas.

Radio and television stations suspended their normal programmes and broadcast verses from the Holy Koran and classical music.

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Hizbullah plots revenge against Israel, page 2

Gaza police chief vows to nab 'collaborator' killers

GAZA (Agencies) — The Palestinian police chief in the Gaza self-rule area vowed on Friday to capture militants who killed two suspected collaborators with Israel last week. "(I swear) by God, I will bring them in even if this costs me 100 martyrs," Major-General Nasir Yousef said.

He praised the Islamic Hamas movement for undertaking to stop the killing of informants but said the group seemed unable to control all its members.

"We are willing to live with any behaviour so long as there is no bloodshed," Gen. Yousef told a public meeting.

Hamas men killed Abdul Wahhab Radi and Husam Doush in Gaza City on May 27, accusing them of collaborating and killing Palestinians.

The killing, the first since Palestinian policemen took control of the Gaza Strip, has become a test of will between Hamas and the Palestinian authority backed by the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

Mahmoud Al Zahhar, an Islamic known for close ties to

Hamas, said the police demands were not acceptable. "Those people are not killers and thus pursuing them is wrong," Mr. Zahhar said. "This thing happened while the police did not complete building of its institutions."

Gen. Yousef stressed that the police were in favour of political pluralism and invited Hamas members to join the Palestinian forces.

"We have asked our brothers in the nationalist and Islamic political groups, those who carried weapons (against the occupation) to join the national security forces."

He said only a few responded to the call.

Gaza militants have threatened a PLO official with violence for saying they lacked discipline and were unfit to be policemen, Israel Radio reported.

Sufian Abu Zaideh had said that he sacked 70 local recruits to the Palestinian police force because they could not meet

(Continued on page 5)

Gaza police 'overworked,' under-equipped, page 10

Jerusalem issue could spark war — expert

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — An Israeli former head of intelligence warned Friday that rival Arab and Israeli claims to Jerusalem could lead to a "jihad."

Yehoshafat Harkabi, quoted by the Yedioth Ahronoth daily, said Israel could not keep hold of East Jerusalem, which it seized in 1967, indefinitely.

He said: "Those who think Jerusalem will stay under Israeli control are fooling themselves because we have to take account of its importance for Christians and Muslims. That could plunge us into war."

"If there is any subject capable of provoking jihad, it is Jerusalem, and our attitude could create all the right conditions for it. I find it difficult to believe the Arabs, and not just the Palestinians, would accept to have no part of Jerusalem."

Mr. Harkabi, head of military intelligence between 1955

(Continued on page 5)

Gaza police 'overworked,' under-equipped, page 10



Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor are received upon their return home Friday by

His Royal Highness Prince Mohammad and other members of the Royal Family (Petra photo)

King, Queen return home

By Ayman Al Safadi
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor returned home on Friday after a two-week private visit to Britain.

The King is expected to leave Jordan for the United States June 16 where he will hold talks with President Bill Clinton on the Middle East peace process, especially the Jordanian track of the negotiations, informed sources said.

The sources said that a tri-lateral Jordanian-U.S.-Israeli economic committee is expected to hold its first meeting in Washington later in the month.

Jordan and Israel signed an agenda for their talks in September but the negotiations have made little headway since.

Jordanian sources said the negotiations have been bogged down because of Israel's refusal to discuss issues that Jordan believes should proceed talks of regional economic cooperation and development.

They said Israel wants to discuss regional development

before first agreeing to demarcate its borders with the Kingdom, something which Jordan categorically rejects.

Israel also wants to sign a peace deal with the Kingdom before settling the issues on the agenda. But Jordan insists the Jewish state withdraw from occupied Jordanian land and return its share in the waters of Jordan and Yarmouk rivers before any peace deal is concluded.

Sources expected the Jordanian-U.S. summit to be held in Washington some time between June 16 and 24 when the King will be in the United States for his final bi-annual medical check up at Mayo Clinic.

The King will from now on have annual check-ups at the clinic, where he underwent successful surgery in 1992.

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They said the King also met with a Jordanian economic team that was formed to draw up a Jordanian strategy on military affairs.

King Hussein was accompanied by His Royal Highness Prince Faisal, Royal Court Chief Sharif Zeid Bep Shakir and Major-General Hmeidi Al Fayez, the King's advisor on military affairs.

The team, which is parallel to the formal delegation to the peace talks, includes economic experts among whom are former Minister of Finance Basel Jardaneh, and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan's advisers Mohammad Saqqaf and Ahmed Mangu.

King Hussein and Queen Noor were received upon their arrival here by His Royal Highness Prince Mohammad, the personal representative of the King, Their Royal Highnesses Princess Taghreed, Prince Abdullah Ben Al Hussein and Prince Ghazi Ben Mohammad, and other Royal Family members as well as Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali, Upper House of Parliament Speaker Ahmad Al Lawzi, Lower House Speaker Taher Al Marri, Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'ad Ben Zeid, the King's advisors and other senior officials.

King and Queen were received upon their arrival here by His Royal Highness Prince Faisal, Royal Court Chief Sharif Zeid Bep Shakir and Major-General Hmeidi Al Fayez, the King's advisor on military affairs.

In a resolution on the Yemeni civil war, NAM backed the U.N. Security Council's ceasefire call and urged the northern and southern rivals to settle their differences peacefully.

But Yemeni Foreign Minister Mohammad Bassandawa, a northerner, condemned the call because it made no mention of the country's four-year-old unity or references to the Republic of Yemen.

"Yemen's unity must not be massacred," he warned, "otherwise, other countries will be massacred." He insisted that the north and south must stay united for the civil war to end.

And although NAM became the first multilateral organisation to note Iraqi progress on meeting U.N. resolutions to destroy its weapons of mass destruction, Iraq was still unhappy with the final text.

If protested that the reference to its relations with Kuwait, which it occupied between August 1990 and February 1991, failed to make direct mention of the suffering of the Iraqi people caused by a U.N.-imposed embargo.

Egypt had acted as a mediator earlier in the week in a bid to try to iron out differences between the Iraqi and Kuwaiti delegations.

In their declaration, NAM

Non-aligned seek new world role

CAIRO (Agencies) — The Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) pledged to map out a strategy for the 21st century Friday seeking to define its role in the post-cold war world, despite being dogged here by regional disputes.

"The ministers are resolved to impart a new dynamism to the movement to enable its members to enter the 21st century as a vibrant and constructive force on the world scene," they said in a Cairo declaration.

The declaration was adopted by foreign ministers from 109 member countries at the end of a four-day meeting at which they nominated Colombia to take over the presidency of the group.

NAM celebrates its 40th anniversary next year and is conscious that it faces a very different climate to that when it was created in 1955.

The movement was born out of a desire by developing countries to escape from the cold war division of the world which saw the international arena dominated by the superpowers of the United States and the former Soviet Union.

Its anniversary will coincide with the 50th birthday of the United Nations and NAM hopes to play a greater role in the U.N. in the forthcoming years.

"Responding to the changes in international relations represents the most formidable challenge before the movement in the years to come," the final declaration said.

But regional difficulties were highlighted throughout the four-day conference which sought to steer a course through the political differences between several member countries.

King and Queen were the strongest critics of the final declaration.

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Middle East News

Hizbollahis plot revenge against Israel after strike

BEIRUT (R) — Hizbollah guerrillas, rallying to their war cry of victory or martyrdom, will soon launch a series of attacks against Israel to avenge the bloodiest single blow they received in 12 years of struggle, Muslim sources said.

Israeli aircraft blasted a Hizbollah training camp in the eastern Bekaa Valley early on Thursday, killing at least 26 guerrillas and wounding 70.

It was the highest toll in a single Israeli raid suffered by the Shiite Muslim group formed after Israel's 1982 invasion of Lebanon.

"It is painful, it is heartbreaking," a Hizbollah official told Reuters. "We are not used to suffering such a high toll or giving away such an easy victory to Israel."

"But this is war, one day is for you, another is against you," the official, who requested anonymity, said.

Muslim sources said Hizbollah was preparing for a series of attacks against Israeli targets not just in South Lebanon but elsewhere.

"They are preparing for a series of qualitative attacks that will not be restricted to South Lebanon," he said, without elaboration.

Hizbollah leaders said last month after helicopter-borne Israeli commandos abducted a guerrilla leader from his home in the Bekaa Valley that the confrontation with the Jewish state would now be expanded beyond South Lebanon.

Hizbollah guerrillas fired salvos of Katyusha rockets into northern Israel after the air raid, defying stern Israeli warnings of harsh retaliation.

Israel, which moved armoured columns to its border with Lebanon late on Thursday, said the barrages violated "understandings" that ended a week-long air, land and sea blitz of South Lebanon last July.

The blitz, in which 150 people, mostly civilians, died, ended after U.S. mediation led to a truce by Israel and Hizbollah not to attack civilian targets.

Hizbollah has claimed that no understandings were reached but refrained from rocketing northern Israel until Thursday.

The name "Hizbollah" com-

es from a verse in the Holy Koran — "The Party of God, they are victorious."

Inspired by Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini's Islamic revolution in Iran, the group seeks an end to the state of Israel and to curb western influence in Lebanon.

Hizbollah emerged in Lebanon after the 1982 invasion when some 2,000 Iranian Revolutionary Guards moved to the mainly Shiite Bekaa Valley to drive the Israelis out of the country.

The Iranians concentrated on spreading Ayatollah Khomeini's doctrines.

Their recruiting grounds were southern and eastern villages of Shiite Muslims, Lebanon's poorest, most down-trodden population group, and Beirut slums to which many Shiites migrated during the 1975-90 civil war.

Shiite have long been excluded from significant power in Lebanon but are the country's largest sect.

Their southern heartland has taken Israel's military blows for more than two decades. The Shiites mostly suffered silently when the south was hit in the war on Palestinian guerrillas.

But with the 1982 invasion, they began to strike back and tormented the West and Israel with suicide bombings against Western interests, hostagings and assassinations.

Suicide truck bombings killed more than 60 people at the U.S. embassy in April 1983. In October of the same year, 241 U.S. servicemen and 58 French paratroopers were killed in suicide bombings of their headquarters.

Fundamentalist sources put the number of Hizbollah fighters at 5,000 and 10,000 fighters. The group, armed and financed by Iran, is run by a 12-man leadership, shura or advisory council.

Among all groups in the Arab World, Hizbollah is the most relentlessly opposed to the U.S.-sponsored peace process between Israel and its Arab neighbours.

Hizbollah stepped up its raids against Israeli forces as the peace talks began in October 1991 and has escalated its attacks with each subsequent meeting of Arab-Israeli negotiations.

In all secular societies, it is recognized that very few people have the capacity to make a commitment of that depth and constancy. And yet all of us know that, ultimately, the meaning of our lives depend upon the constant effort to

Clinton, Pope discuss Middle East

VATICAN CITY (USA) — President Bill Clinton says he and Pope John Paul held talks on a wide range of subjects on Thursday 2, including the Middle East, Bosnia, North Korea, Poland and Eastern Europe, and "the need to protect religious freedoms in Asian countries."

The president also told a group of American seminarians that he and the Pope "talked about the upcoming conference in Cairo on world population problems... and how we could come together on a policy that would promote responsible growth of the world's population and still reaffirm our common commitment for the central role of the family in every society."

The following is a transcript of Mr. Clinton's remarks, as released by the White House:

"We had a wonderful discussion about a large number of things. I'm always amazed to find him so vigorously involved in the affairs of the world."

"We talked about the difficulties in Bosnia, as you might imagine. We talked a lot about Poland and Eastern Europe. We talked at some length about Russia and our emerging relationships there. We talked quite a long while about Asia, about the need to protect religious freedoms in Asian countries, and to promote that. And I pledged to the pope my best efforts to work with other nations, especially nations in Asia in the cause of religious freedom."

"We talked about the challenges presented at the moment by the dispute we're having with North Korea. We talked at great length about the role of the Islamic states in the future of the world — not only in the Middle East, but elsewhere. We talked a lot about the Middle East, and I thanked His Holiness for the recognition that the Holy See has given to Israel and the support to the peace process."

"We talked about the upcoming conference in Cairo on world population problems, about where we agreed and where we didn't and how we could come together on a policy that would promote responsible growth of the world's population and still reaffirm our common commitment for the central role of the family in every society."

"For those of you who are American seminarians here, I would like to say a special word of appreciation for the role of the Catholic Church in our country. There are 20,000 parishes, 9,000 Catholic



U.S. President Bill Clinton with Pope John Paul II at the Vatican on Thursday (AFP photo)

elementary and high schools, over 200 Catholic colleges and universities, one of which gave me a degree a long time ago. The thing I have always revered about the Catholic Church was the sense of constancy and commitment of the church in our national life; sense of putting one's life, one's money, one's time where one's stated ideas are."

The Catholic Church has brought together faith and action, word and deed, bringing together people across the lines of rich and poor, of racial lines and other lines perhaps better than any other institution in our society. And I am convinced that it's been able to do that because people like you, those of you who are here as seminarians, have been willing to make the ultimate commitment of your entire lives in the service of that in which you believe."

In all secular societies, it is recognized that very few people have the capacity to make a commitment of that depth and constancy. And yet all of us know that, ultimately, the meaning of our lives depend upon the constant effort to

achieve a level of integrity between what we feel and what we think and what we do. And I stand here today to tell you that, as an American president, I am immensely proud of the commitment you have made."

Hillary and I have a friend whom we treasure greatly who is a Jesuit priest who I met over 30 years ago, who went to law school with us later and who continues to labor to fulfill his vows. And one of my most treasured possessions and I even received from a personal friend was a letter that he wrote to us after he had been a priest for 20 years, explaining without being at all self-righteous what it had meant to him to have kept his vows for two decades and why he thought in a way he had lived a selfish life because he had achieved a measure of peace and comfort and energy that he could have found in no other way.

It is that feeling that I think ultimately we want for all the people of our nation and all the people of the world. And for your example in taking us in that direction I thank you.

Gunfire, burning tyres outside U.N. in Somalia

MOGADISHU (R) — Somali gangs loosed off anti-aircraft guns and burned tyres outside Mogadishu's U.N.-protected airport and port on Thursday, residents said.

The latest display of apparent defiance from armed Somalis was put on just three days after the Security Council gave the country another chance at restoring peace by keeping 19,000 U.N. troops there for four months longer.

In the troubled southern port of Kismayu, warlords who led the country into clan feuding, famine and disease three years ago quarrelled at yet another round of peace talks brokered by the United Nations.

Machine-gunfire echoed around Mogadishu and black plumes of smoke rose into the sky from morning after truck drivers hired city youths to protest against new port tariffs introduced at the U.N.-managed facility.

The U.N. wants the tariffs to help the port finance itself, but whenever it has tried to introduce them in recent months, the truck drivers have prevented a return to the days when they were taxed before the government collapsed in January 1991.

Other youths were mobilised by metal scrap dealers to protest at a decree issued by warlord Mohammad Farah Aideed that they should not be allowed to export from areas under his control.

Scrap metal was big business in Somalia during the clan wars, when looters tore down everything from the factories built with Western aid money to the bronze statues of Somali heroes.

The man widely blamed for most of the looting was Osman Hassan Ali "Ato" — the thin one — who is General Aideed's right hand man and financier.

Gen. Aideed's militia radio also banned the exports of charcoal, which is responsible for much of the deforestation in the arid country, and female goats — which Somalis traditionally do not like selling because they want to maintain breeding stock.

"SNA (Aideed's Somali National Alliance) security men, police and port authorities are all required to seize such things as scrap metal, she goats and charcoal. Handle them with great care and then bring the perpetrators to a court of law," said Gen. Aideed's broadcast by radio.

Gen. Aideed, whose militias battled U.S. troops on the streets of Mogadishu and caused Western forces to pull out in last March, arrived back in May after months abroad and apparently wants to establish a de facto government in his areas.

He has been unable to reach agreement with his many rivals despite an accord much-publicised by the U.N. in March which promised a series of talks to set up a new government.

In Kismayu, tensions mounted as Ogaden clan warlords Aden Abdullah Nur "Gibio" — "The poet" — and Ahmad Omar Jess condemned peace talks opened by the U.N. Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM) last week.

The militias of Mr. Gibio and Mr. Jess fought a series of bloody feuds for control of Kismayu town and the fertile hinterland, but have recently mended relations.

In U.N.-brokered deals, the clans were supposed to agree that the Ogaden would take control of the farming lands outside Kismayu.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Talabani arrives in northern Iraq

NUSAYBIN, Turkey (AP) — Iraqi Kurdish leader Jalal Talabani, who got stranded in Syria when rival Kurdish groups engaged in fighting in his homeland, arrived Thursday in northern Iraq. Mr. Talabani entered this Kurdish border town from Syria and a Turkish helicopter flew him into Irbil. He was scheduled to meet with the leader of the rival Kurdish group, Massoud Barzani, said Shazad Saib, the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) representative in Ankara. Turkey arranged for Mr. Talabani's return to his homeland after the PUK requested help. He was away from northern Iraq since April 10. Fighting broke out between the PUK and forces of the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) a month ago. Turkey is concerned over the political uncertainty in northern Iraq. The Turkish government says it is only to the benefit of Turkey's Kurdish guerrillas, which hold bases in northern Iraq, as part of their fight for autonomy in southeastern Turkey. Iraqi Kurds have had a de facto state in northern Iraq since the end of the Gulf war. Mr. Saib said Mr. Talabani accepted a Turkish offer to hold a joint meeting with Mr. Barzani and Turkish authorities in Ankara next week. The KDP's response was not immediately known. A similar meeting without Mr. Talabani and Mr. Barzani took place in another Turkish border town, Silopi, on Monday. The Turkish authorities have been pushing the PUK and the KDP to reach a lasting political solution. A ceasefire has been holding in the area in northern Iraq since Monday. Mr. Saib said, "I hope there will be no more skirmishes with the return of Mr. Talabani," he said.

Fighting in Turkey leaves 32 dead

ANKARA (AFP) — Fighting in southeast Turkey left 32 people dead within a 24-hour period, including 25 Kurdish rebels, an official statement said Friday. The 21 rebels from the separatist Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) and three Turkish soldiers were killed in fighting in the regions of Hakkari and Siyak on the border with Syria, Iraq and Iran, and in Diyarbakir, the main town of southeast Turkey. Meanwhile, four Kurdish rebels and four civilians were killed in a night attack on the village of Gurece, in the region of Bitlis, the Turkish news agency Anatolia reported. A group of armed PKK militants attacked the village Thursday night killing four villagers and wounding eight others. Four rebels were killed when villagers repelled the attack, the news agency said. Since mid-March Turkish forces have stepped up their military activities in the east and the south of the country to end the PKK rebellion which has caused at least 12,000 deaths since it erupted in August 1984.

Iran slips guards into Bosnia

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Iran has smuggled nearly 400 Revolutionary Guards into Bosnia to help Bosnian Muslims organise groups in the former Yugoslavia. U.S. intelligence services said Thursday. "They have either arrived by now or will soon in the former Yugoslavia," an intelligence source told AFP. The focus of their activities will be in the former Yugoslavia. Western Europe is not a target, he added. The presence of several hundred Islamic volunteers fighting with the Bosnian Muslims against the Bosnian Serbs has been known for more than a year. But this is the first time that information about a country sending troops has surfaced.

According to the Washington Times between 350 and 400 "instructors" were secretly deployed in May along with shipments of arms and explosives in order to organise pro-Iranian groups. It is similar to Iranian-supported Hizbullah operations in Lebanon. The paper said the guards are being organised out of the Iranian embassy in Zagreb, Croatia. It quoted one source as saying the Iranians risk running into problems however, because the Bosnian Muslims lack Islamic fervour.

BNL insurance bid rejected

ATLANTA (AP) — Banca Nazionale Del Lavoro (BNL) is not entitled to collect on a \$5 million insurance policy covering losses due to dishonesty among Atlanta branch employees who illegally loaned money to Iraq, a judge has ruled. The Italian bank has been trying to recover from Lloyd's of London since August 1989, when Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) uncovered billions of dollars in unreported loans that BNL made to exporters dealing with Iraq. The bank, which is owned by the Italian government, insisted that its Rome headquarters was kept in the dark about the irregular Iraqi loans. BNL estimated that it lost \$1.8 billion in the loan scam and filed a claim against Lloyd's policy. Lloyd's refused to pay, and BNL filed suit in 1993. Lloyd's argued that BNL knew before the policy was issued in December 1988 that its Atlanta employees had engaged in unauthorised lending and forgery. Superior Court Judge Philip Etheridge granted Lloyd's motion for summary judgement at a court hearing Friday. He is expected to sign a written order dismissing the case this week. Mr. Etheridge was the third Atlanta judge to reject BNL's assertion that the fraud in Atlanta caught senior bank officials by complete surprise. U.S. District Judge Marvin Shoob reached a similar conclusion in a federal court order in October 1992, and U.S. District Judge Ernest Tidwell wrote a year later that BNL-Rome "knew, should have known, or could have known by the exercise of minimal diligence" of the Atlanta branch's irregular activities.

New Israeli minister takes maverick's post

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel's parliament has approved the appointment of Ephraim Sneh, a member of the ruling Labour Party, to the post of health minister vacated three months ago by political maverick Haim Ramon. Mr. Sneh, born in 1944, qualified as a medical doctor and was a career military officer, retiring with the rank of brigadier general in 1988 after serving from 1985 to 1987 as the head of the body administering Israel's occupation of the West Bank. Mr. Ramon, 44, quit as health minister and was kicked out of the Labour Party in February after Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and the cabinet withdrew their support for his far-reaching health care reform bill. At the beginning of May, Mr. Ramon won nationwide elections for the leader of the Histadrut trade federation, Israel's largest labour union and longtime labour power base.



Ayatollah Ali Khamenei

and holds official meetings with foreign dignitaries visiting Iran.

Considered as a fair arbiter among various factions within the political establishment, he has been able to assert himself as a pivotal figure and a source of emulation for many officials, including Rafsanjani.

Government offices are obliged to display the portraits of Ayatollah Khamenei, often along with those of Ayatollah Khomeini, while Mr. Rafsanjani's pictures appear in public at random.

The leader supporters, particularly in the parliament often address him with the title "imam" an honour previously reserved for Ayatollah Khomeini.

But while Ayatollah Khamenei's political power is unchallenged, his holding absolute religious authority is still contested by some clergy in conservative circles, who are opposed to the concept of velayat-e-faqih (religious government).

Velayat, which calls for

one single figure or entity to serve as both religious and political leader in a Shiite Muslim state, has been opposed on grounds that political failures could badly reflect on people's faith in religion.

Differences surfaced late last year when several top officials demanded that Ayatollah Khamenei be chosen as a marja-e-taqleed (the source of religious reference in Shiite Islam) while keeping his post as leader.

A leading conservative cleric, Ayatollah Khamenei, possessed "all the right qualities" to become a marja, but on the condition that he excelled other candidates in religious learnings.

To overcome such opposition, Ayatollah Khamenei has since two years ago undertaken the unprecedented task to reform schools of theology in Iran and tried to bring the traditionally independent institutions under government supervision.

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08:50 Paris, Damascus (RJ)

08:55 Amsterdam (KL)

09:00 Cairo (MS)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

07:00 Beirut (RJ)</

Majali reiterates respect, support for a free press

AMMAN (J.T.) — Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali reiterated the government's respect for a free press, saying that this right, is guaranteed by the Jordanian Constitution and the National Charter.

In a message to Mahmoud Al Kayed, chairman of the board of directors of the Jordan Press Foundation (Al Ra'i) and the Jordan Times

newspapers), the prime minister said the government is committed to ensuring free expression and to upholding the principles of democracy which have been enhanced by His Majesty King Hussein's policies and wise leadership.

In his message to Mr. Kayed, marking the 24th anniversary of Al Ra'i Arabic daily, Dr. Majali said the press, which is the "fourth

estate," plays a key role in creating necessary national public awareness, fostering and enhancing the sense of national belonging among the public and serving national and pan-Arab objectives.

The press can and should assist the legislative and executive authorities with their tasks by highlighting the facts and the accomplishments and also by helping to safeguard

the higher national interests," added Dr. Majali.

Expressing his appreciation of Al Ra'i's efforts over the past 24 years and the journalists' endeavours to serve their nation, the prime minister voiced hope that the daily newspaper would pursue greater efforts for far greater achievements in the future.

Writers', journalists' unions condemn refusal to hold ceremony for assassinated colleague

By Karonza Jadoun
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The cancellation of a ceremony to commemorate the late Jordanian journalist, Hanna Muqbel, came as a surprise to cultural milieus in Amman.

Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation was to host the symposium last Monday, as regulations stipulate, first had to request the permission of the Interior Ministry. The foundation received a refusal from the Amman Governorate three days before the scheduled date of the ceremony.

"We received the decision, but no reasons were provided," Basem Khouri, an employee at the foundation said.

The Union of Arab Writers (UAW), the Union of Arab Journalists (UAJ) and the Jordanian Writers Association (JWA), the organiser of the symposium, condemned the decision as groundless and issued a statement to this effect.

UAW Secretary General Fakhri Kawar told the Jordan Times that he spoke to the governor, but was given no reason for the decision.

JWA President Mu'mis Razzaz said he wrote to the interior minister to complain of the decision, but also to no avail.

"Not a single reason was given. It is a position we are not comfortable with. Supposedly, holding a ceremony of this kind is something normal," Mr. Kawar said.

Director of the Arab Writers Union Nazih Abu Nidal said the late journalist, a leftist and pan-Arabist, was the secretary general of the Arab Journalists Union and of Jordanian nationality, "so it is normal for his relatives, friends and colleagues to commemorate him."

"There was another ceremony to commemorate the late Jordanian writer Mahmud Seif Addin Al Iraji, just a day before our scheduled event, and it was not cancelled," Mr. Abu Nidal said.

Mr. Razzaz condemned the decision and said that the late "well-known" journalist and His Majesty King Hussein himself expressed his condolences over his death. Hanna has so many admirers, that's why we expected so many fans and chose Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation instead of the JWA hall to hold the ceremony."

Mr. Razzaz told the Jordan Times in a telephone interview that he was astonished, adding that this is the first time he

knows of that a request from Shoman Foundation to hold such an event was refused. "Yet," he added, "there were dozens of occasions when other governors act in the same way. That is why we issued a statement to protest such anti-democratic acts."

Amman Governor Talat Nawaiesh told the Jordan Times there is no reason to commemorate someone after 10 years. Furthermore, anniversaries are only for national occasions."

When told that the UAW, the UAJ and the JWA condemned the refusal, he said that "it was not them who asked for the permission, it was Abdul Hameed (Shoman) Foundation."

As for the Ministry of Interior, its secretary general, Khalil Khreisat, said that the ministry had no idea about the issue.

"Amman Governorate is against all martyrs of word who defend human rights for freedom and life... it is a reward for the assassin, to halt us from condemning the bloody violence against intellectuals..."

Mr. Zreikat told the Jordan Times that Ministry of Culture Secretary General Muhammad Naji Al Amaireh promised that the symposium will be held at a later date.

Faces of Jordan

By Ica Wahbeh
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Faces of Jordan are so varied and interesting, but are not represented as much as landscapes in local art. It was not the case though at the photography contest held at the U.S. embassy in Amman, whose title, "Faces of Jordan," points to the organizers' interest.

Exhibiting in the hall of the American Cultural Centre, the almost 50 contestants had focused their lenses on the human expression, immortalising expressions, feelings, postures and gestures.

At the awards ceremony, Counsellor for Press and Cultural Affairs at the embassy Seter Kovach gave the rationale behind the choice of theme and art medium.

"Photography is a medium in a place like Jordan with such promising social developments; the art of photography should thus be encouraged," said Mr. Kovach before honouring the winners in the presence of Minister of Culture Amin Mahmoud.

Young and old, rich and poor, men and women, happy and sad, the "faces" stare at the viewer from black and white or coloured frames telling the story of a life or of a community.

Winner of the first prize in the professional category was Yousef Al Allan, our colleague from the sister Arabic newspaper, Al Ra'i.

The unsuspecting winner was all smiles and "very, very happy." His winning photo, titled Tafa'oul (optimism) is that of an old man with a checkered headress covering his white hair, a wrinkled wise face and eyes looking wistfully into the horizon.

The judges panel, whose job was surely not easy when seeing the number of photos they had to view and their quality, was made up of professional photographer Bill Lyons and painter Ali Jaber.

Their comments on the chosen photos justify their options and show professionalism.

Mr. Allan's work, for example, was characterised as "an entirely self-sufficient image,

well-cropped, incisive character study."

First prize in the amateur category went to Ra'de Ammouri from Irbid, whose photos of Irbid citizens are a "lucid, insightful, penetrating study" and which have been recommended as "student's work for its sincerity, use of black and white, sensitivity in composition and cultural context — informative in a way that just faces are not and not overfolkloric."

Second prize in the amateur category went to Rami Sajdi for "The Azazme Queen," an "intensely empathetic and unflinching portrait which bridges tremendous gaps... a very fine answer to a search."

panel judged it.

Muwaqqaf Al Sheikh received the second prize in the professional category for an untitled "delightful, fresh, spontaneous, refreshing sense of landscape and cultural context."

The third prize was given to three third-year students at the Faculty of Architecture of the Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST) for a group of nine photos.

Their works were recommended for their "social concern, rare as a photographic subject," and were found to be the "only competition entry with direct social application, not aesthetically concerned, but photography for its purely

investigative functions."

The students, Nimer Tawfiq, Jawad Suliman and Sameer Can'an, are active in a photo club at the university, but are at their first public exhibition.

"We are very happy as it is the first entry for us, our first attempt and we won the third prize," said Nimer.

An honourable mention was granted to Haitham Iweinat for his "Al Manqala," a "successful, humourous, dignified photo" effortlessly accomplishing the theme of the competition with no intrusive peripheral distractions."

The photos will be exhibited until the end of June. They provide a refreshing change of art lovers this summer.

U.S. dollar stabilises in market

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The U.S. dollar stabilised in the local market at around 702-703 fils last week after a several-year high of 712 fils last month partly attributed to a clamour for dollars against the dinar in the occupied territories and to an international strengthening of the American

back in the international market.

But dealers sold the dollar for up to 712 fils in mid-May, hiking the rate in line with the world surge in the American currency after the Federal Reserve, the U.S. central bank, increased interest rates, followed by Germany.

Differences between the rates in the Amman market and the occupied territories were negligible, dealers said.

Economic analysts said Jordanian commercial banks operating in the occupied territories had the situation under control and could easily meet the market demand there without straining themselves.

The official rate, set by the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) on a daily basis, remained within the 698-702 fils range throughout the period despite a strengthening of the green-

public as long as it is available with them.

Licensed moneychangers, who are free to quote their prices within an acceptable level of margin from the CBJ set prices, said the dollar's rise came during the second week of May and remained at 710-712 fils level until the last week of the month when the market appetite was aptly whetted.

"The situation is quite normal now," said a dealer, noting that the trend among moneychangers in the first few days of the boost was more towards buying than selling, reflecting expectations that the currency was on its way up.

The currency black market

which thrived during 1989 and 1990 is virtually non-existent. A few operators here and there do deal in foreign exchange, but always under some kind of arrangement with licensed moneychangers for legal cover.

UNRWA ends 2-day donor-host meeting

AMMAN (J.T.) — The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) Peace Implementation Programme (PIP) is already showing tangible results, especially in the Gaza Strip, where socio-economic conditions are so precarious, according to UNRWA Commissioner-General Iltar Turmen. In remarks to delegates attending a meeting of major donor and host countries in Amman which concluded Thursday, Mr. Turkmen reported that donor countries had provided about \$85 million for PIP projects in the West Bank and Gaza Strip and about \$10 million for projects in Jordan, Lebanon and Syria.

The Agency launched PIP

three weeks after the signing of the Declaration of Principles between the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and Israel on Sept. 13, 1993.

PIP aims to support the peace process by assisting the social and economic advancement of Palestine refugees through upgrading infrastructure, including refugee shelters and agency installations such as schools and clinics, as well as creating jobs.

The commissioner-general

said that the agency's continuing efforts to promote self-reliance among refugee communities throughout UNRWA's fields of operation "would be one of the most significant and lasting services which UNRWA could provide to Palestinians, regardless of where they live."

During the meeting, representa-

tives attending the Working

Group on UNRWA's

financing discussed the agen-

cy's 1994 shortfall in its regu-

lar budget and suggested action

UNRWA might take to reduce

the deficit, said an UNRWA

statement, without elaborating.

Mr. Turkmen had earlier re-

ported that the agency's pro-

jected 1994 deficit of \$21 mil-

lion in its regular budget

assumed that the agency main-

tained the cutbacks imposed in

1993 and did not allow for any

growth in services in 1994.

He explained to representa-

tives that "in order for UN-

RWA to meet long-standing

performance targets and en-

sure that the quality of services

remains stable in the coming

years," the agency needed \$21 mil-

lion to avoid draining its

working capital in 1994 and an

additional \$22 million to main-

tain the standard of UNRWA

services, making a total budget

deficit of \$43 million for 1994.

Interior minister meets with Iraqi president in Baghdad

BAGHDAD (Agencies) —

Iraqi President Saddam Hussein Thursday conferred in Baghdad with visiting Jordanian Minister of Interior Salameh Hammad following official talks between Mr. Hammad and his Iraqi counterpart Wataban Al Hassan concerning bilateral cooperation in security affairs.

The Iraqi News Agency

quoted Mr. Al Hassan as describing Jordan's stand as honourable, and the Iraqi-Jordanian relations as distinguished in all fields.

Peta quoted Mr. Al Hassan as describing Jordan's stand as honourable, and the Iraqi-Jordanian relations as distinguished in all fields.

According to INA, Mr. Hammad said the U.N. imposed embargo on Iraq was no longer justified because the Iraqi government has proved its commitment to all U.N. Security Council resolutions and has implemented them.

Mr. Hammad toured several religious and development projects in Iraq and paid tribute to the Iraqi people's efforts after the Gulf war to rebuild their nation.

The Iraqi minister of interior paid tribute to Jordan's support in the face of what he termed plots directed against

the Iraqi people and territorial integrity, said the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

By Elia Nasrallah

Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Health

Ministry last week aborted an

attempt by a local merchant to market JD 500,000 of contaminated coffee beans in the Kingdom and forced the merchant to leave Aqaba harbour.

Health Minister Abdul Rahim Malhas told the Jordan Times Friday that the merchant, whose name he declined to release, had tried all means and various forms of pressure on the government to bring in the shipment.

"We had examined a sample of the coffee beans at our main laboratories in Aqaba; the beans had very bad smell, and were found to be contaminated.

The lab issued a certificate urging the port authorities not to allow the shipment to be unloaded," Dr. Malhas said.

The ministry regularly examines samples of all types of food entering the country, but has intensified inspections recently, assisted by the modern laboratory facilities in the port city, the minister said, who added that the coffee bean shipment would have been sufficient for Jordan's needs for at least six months.

The local authorities last month announced a 280 kilo-

per kilogramme hike in the price of coffee in Jordan because of the rise in prices on the world market, said the minister.

He added that it is in such a climate, when prices rise and commodities are in short supply, that the so-called "garbage market" thrives, with some merchants seeking to market contaminated merchandise and earning a fortune in the process.

Dr. Malhas said that at one stage he had to send a sample of the rejected shipment together with the laboratory report to the Prime Ministry in order to make his point clear to the prime minister and the government, who had been exposed to enormous pressure on the part of the local wealthy merchant.

Stressing that the Health Ministry was pursuing all avenues and doing all that was in its power to prevent underworld dealings in matters related to public health, Dr. Malhas said that a few days ago the health authorities in Aqaba had to destroy a contaminated shipment of tomatoes.

A total of 1,480 bags of 200 kilos each were packed on board a vessel that arrived in Aqaba recently, and samples of the paste were tested at the laboratories in the usual procedure required, the minister said.

Those and other violators are fined, but stricter measures could be imposed and their licences could be revoked should the violation be repeated, explained the minister.

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Opinion & Analysis

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Chairman of the Board of Directors:

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Editor-in-Chief:

GEORGE S. HAWATMEH

Editorial and advertising offices:

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Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO

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Court for the constitution

THE ISSUE of whether the Pharmacists Association is constitutional or not is currently under review at the Higher Court of Justice. Another issue, whether forming a teachers' union would be constitutional or not, is being reviewed by another body, the Higher Council. This confusion has arisen from the fact that Jordan has no independent judicial constitutional court, like the case is in other countries, for example Egypt.

The former legal issue, that of the Pharmacists Association, surfaced when the union filed a case against the Minister of Health for his handling of government-employed pharmacists. The minister reacted by contesting the constitutionality of the association itself. According to the Minister of Justice, Taher Hikmat, Jordan's Higher Court of Justice does not look into the constitutionality of laws per se, rather, it looks into decisions that are issued under law that can be unconstitutional. Mr. Hikmat had said in an article published in November 1992 that the court, therefore, "would only contest the decision or the procedure issued in accordance to a law that contradicts the constitution." The court, Mr. Hikmat concluded, cannot annul a valid law, even if it concluded that it was unconstitutional.

The second body that can decide if a law is constitutional or not is the Higher Council. This council is made up of nine members, four senators and five most senior judges. For it to pass resolutions, the council needs a majority of six votes. This council is entrusted, in addition to trying ministers for any wrongdoing while serving in office, to "the interpretation of the articles of the constitution if required to by the Cabinet or a majority decision by any of the two Houses of Parliament."

When the last parliament demanded the government legislate for forming a teacher's union, the government, fearful of a political group dominating the association, asked the council to rule whether a teachers' union was constitutional or not. The council met then but its vote was split five to four on the issue, thus failing to reach a decision.

The issue of whether trade unions should be involved in politics has resurfaced since the Prime Minister, Abdul Salam Majali, took office last year. The constitution does not explicitly state that Jordan can form unions. But it does state, in article 16, that Jordanians have the right to form societies and political parties.

Constitutional experts, including the former Chief Justice Najib Rashdan, believe the term societies does include trade and professional unions. He argues that the right had been acquired since the first trade union was established in the 1950s.

The controversy though points to the need of a new formula to settle all disputes relating to the subject, most appropriately through a constitutional amendment.

The higher council as it is made up now, though constitutional, is not judicial. The fact that four out of its nine members are senators makes it half political and half judicial. That seems to necessitate the creation of constitutional court or entrusting this task to the Higher Court of Justice. That, though, requires a constitutional amendment, which is not, unfortunately, about to be enacted.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A COLUMNIST in Al Dustour strongly criticised a decision for moving the headquarters of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) from Amman to Beirut as an unjustified action resulting from a hostile political stand on the part of certain Arab states. Taher Al Adwan said that it is true that the decision was taken by a majority vote, but that vote was that of those states which harbour enmity towards the Kingdom for its national and neutral stand during the Gulf crisis. During its stay in Amman, ESCWA proved that it is far better functioning in the Kingdom than elsewhere in the Arab states largely due to the stability and security which this country enjoys, he said. Amman has proved to be the most eligible venue for various regional and international agencies as it lies in the heart of the Arab World and continues to host and to provide services to numerous organisations, continued Adwan. For this reason, said the writer, Jordan deserves support not enmity for its national stand vis-a-vis the Israeli designs and for its continued support and help to the Palestinian people.

A COLUMNIST in Sawt Al Shaab daily urged the concerned authorities to widen the Amman-Madaba road so as to cater to the ever growing volume of traffic and prevent road accidents. Nazif Qousai said that the road was built years ago when a relatively small number of vehicles was using it, but with the vast developments in economic, transport and social fields in the areas between Amman and Madaba and in the light of the increased traffic along the road between the two cities, the time has come for the local authorities to think about ways to ease traffic congestion and widen the road, said the writer. He said over the past year tragic accidents occurred on this road with heavy loss of life and property. He said the Ministries of Tourism and Transport ought to join hands with the Ministry of Public Works to ensure the implementation of this very vital project that would positively contribute towards the development of the regions in the southern Amman areas.

Jordanian Perspective

A setback in the making

By Dr. Musa Kellani

THE WAR of words over Palestinian self-rule and the status of Jerusalem between Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin is the best indicator yet of the numerous well-known problems that the two sides will have to confront and settle before it could be said that the Arabs and the Israelis are on their way to a just, comprehensive and durable peace. But what we Muslims and Christians risk in the meantime is a further setback in our quest for our rights in Jerusalem.

Mr. Rabin's persistent attacks and criticism of the way Mr. Arafat and his aides in the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) have been building Palestinian self-rule in Gaza and Jericho reflect an anxiety to ensure that the PLO-orchestrated autonomy falls very much in line with Israeli designs. Obviously the Israeli prime minister is seeking to preempt any success of the autonomy beyond the limitations set by Israel with a view of diluting the international impressions of Palestinian abilities to take care of themselves in the long run.

Among the factors that help Mr. Rabin and his Labour Party in achieving that objective is the split in the Palestinian ranks and the way the PLO leadership is handling self-rule. Mr. Rabin's pointed reminders of Palestinian shortcomings in the autonomy arrangements are not helpful suggestions directed at Mr. Arafat and the PLO inasmuch as they are a message to the international community that it is only a matter of time the Palestinians fall flat on their face while grappling with their newfound but limited freedoms in Gaza and Jericho and prove to be a burden for donors.

The Israeli strategy, played out in public as well as behind the diplomatic scene, has already firmed up delays in the channelling of international financial assistance to the Palestinians. And this does not exactly bode well for the Israeli desire to let the Palestinians see tangible improvements in their standards of living. The net result of the Israeli move could very well end up in a dismal failure of the "self-rule experiment" — as Israeli and American officials call it in private — an eventuality that Mr. Rabin and his aides will be better off taking into consideration while planning their future moves.

At the same side, the bright side of the equation is that

Israeli criticism of Palestinian self-rule could contribute to raising PLO efficiency, something we as Arabs look forward to. Hopefully, the PLO leadership would rise up to the challenge of the day and prove the Israelis wrong.

It is totally a different kettle of fish when it comes to Jerusalem. Here, Mr. Rabin is obviously using Mr. Arafat as a smokescreen on several fronts, including the internal political tug-of-war between the Labour and Likud.

It was no coincidence that a Labour Party "masterplan" to divide the Holy City into religious "zones" was "leaked" to the Israeli media. The "masterplan," according to reports, calls for five Jewish, three Muslim and two Christian "zones" in Jerusalem without jeopardising the status quo and allowing Israel to continue to reign supreme and claim Jerusalem as its "eternal, indivisible" capital.

On the one hand, Mr. Rabin wants to establish in the international psyche that, regardless of the Sept. 13 declaration of principles Israel signed with the PLO in Washington, the Jewish state never entertained any serious consideration of discussing the status of Jerusalem on the basis of the historic and religious rights of Muslims and Christians in the Holy City. Instilling an inherent feeling among all those who are anxious to ensure that Muslim and Christian rights are respected in Jerusalem that Israel never accepted the concept of an arrangement based on those rights in the corner-stone of Mr. Rabin's strategy on the external front.

On the internal front, Mr. Rabin, mindful of the sentiments of the Israeli constituency, is using the war of words with Mr. Arafat over "libah" to liberate Jerusalem to tell the Israeli voters that a Labour-led Israeli government would never let go of absolute control over Jerusalem and that, if anything, the autonomy arrangement with the Palestinians would only consolidate the Jewish state's designs and its claims to the Holy City.

That accounts for Israel's dedicated campaign to prevent the Palestinians from running autonomy from Jerusalem and new questions being raised over the very presence of self-rule administrators in the Orient House in Arab Jerusalem. Probably, the next Israeli step is to close down the Orient House and send a message to the electorate that self-rule or no

self-rule Palestinians will not enjoy any "privileges" in Jerusalem.

Given the running battle with Likud and its new leader, Ariel Sharon, Mr. Rabin, has to reinforce this sentiment among Israeli voters, and he is doing its through Mr. Arafat and the Israeli media.

Where does that leave the Arabs, Muslims and Christians who are entertaining hopes that somehow Israel could be brought to heel sooner or later into discussing the status of Jerusalem and accepting Muslim and Christian rights there?

I have no doubt in my mind that the Labour's "masterplan" is real and the reports that appeared in the media are largely accurate and that Mr. Rabin intends to implement it as soon as possible.

A careful look at what is available of the "masterplan" clearly indicates that it envisages segregating the Muslim and Christian communities in such a way that those two communities would be led to a loggerhead while the Jews would be assured of absolute control of Jerusalem.

We in Jordan, led by the Hashemites — the rightful guardians of the Islamic holy shrines in Jerusalem and who have vowed to defend the rights with blood — have been calling for a substantial and meaningful Christian-Muslim dialogue which, among other things, will have Jerusalem as a priority. Good ground has indeed been covered, but not enough. For some reason or the other, the pugnacious forums are not translated into action, and we are left with a feeling that we would still be pressing an apathetic world for action in the year 2000.

In the meantime, the ongoing Rabin-Arafat clash over Jerusalem is helping Israel build more stones in its already fortified grip on Jerusalem.

It is quite clear that regardless of the developments on the Israeli-Palestinian front and the postponement of debate on Jerusalem under the Israel-PLO accord, we Muslims and Christians have to come up with a clear strategy to counter Israel's exploitation of our own inaction. Otherwise, all our cries and demands will go down in the clamor of the deliberate diversionary tactics planned and executed by Israel.

A lethargic Hong Kong

By David Stamp
Reuter

HONG KONG — Five years ago, a million Hong Kong people stood up to be counted in support of those killed in China for demanding freedom and democracy.

But now few in the British colony will stand up and be counted even for their own freedoms as Hong Kong heads for reunion with China in 1997, democracy campaigners say.

"I sense a kind of lethargy arising from a feeling of inadequacy," said legislator Jimmy McGregor.

"Many, many, in Hong Kong are now going over enthusiastically to... cooperating with China" he said. "Anybody who says differently gets clobbered or is out."

In 1989 the student protesters on Beijing's Tiananmen Square aroused strong support in Hong Kong. When the Chinese army crushed the protests and killed many on June 4, the colony went into deep shock.

A million people marched on China's de facto embassy in the colony and attitudes on both sides changed forever.

Beijing, which a decade ago promised Hong Kong a high degree of autonomy in 1997, began to regard it as a hotbed of subversion that needed to be tightly controlled after the handover.

Hong Kong people, on the other hand, began to lose faith in the "one country, two systems" formula enshrined in the 1984 Sino-British joint declaration. Those who could get a foreign passport, and candidates demanding democratic reform swept elections to the colonial legislature in 1991.

Five years after Tiananmen, the pro-democracy camp refuses to give up. Protesters regularly march to the local headquarters of the official Xinhua news agency, which serves as China's consulate in the colony.

Only this week, six television journalists resigned in protest against alleged self-censorship of a documentary on the Beijing killings. The gesture, which probably means their careers are over, worked. The ATV station said the programme would be aired.

But the effort to promote democracy is no longer a mass movement. Marches on Xinhua draw small crowds and a rally to commemorate the dead of 1989 is expected to attract at most 30,000 on Saturday, not a million. Only

12,000 came last year. Pro-democracy legislators are vocal but remain a minority because of Hong Kong's system of limited democracy, which favours pro-business conservatives opposed to confronting Beijing.

In a blow to Hong Kong morale, China has made it clear that when it takes over it will overturn Governor Chris Patten's reforms aimed at making the legislature more accountable.

Legislator Emily Lau says little momentum remains.

"To some people (the memory) of course is important," she said. "But in terms of it becoming a driving force for the community in struggling for more democracy, in struggling to maintain the rule of law, our freedoms, I don't think it's there."

Rising living standards due to a boom in China have soothed worries for a while at least. "People feel the immediate future is still bearable, but of course if you ask them what's going to happen in two or three years' time, nobody knows," she said.

Tsing Yok-Sing, who leads the pro-Beijing Democratic Alliance Party, admits he wept after the June 4 killings.

But he says what has happened since in China — an economic boom — is far preferable to the fate he says befell the Soviet Union, political liberalisation, economic collapse and disintegration of the state.

"I would... take a pragmatic view" he said. "At heart, many people in Hong Kong have a... feeling that it is fortunate that China has not gone the same way that Russia did."

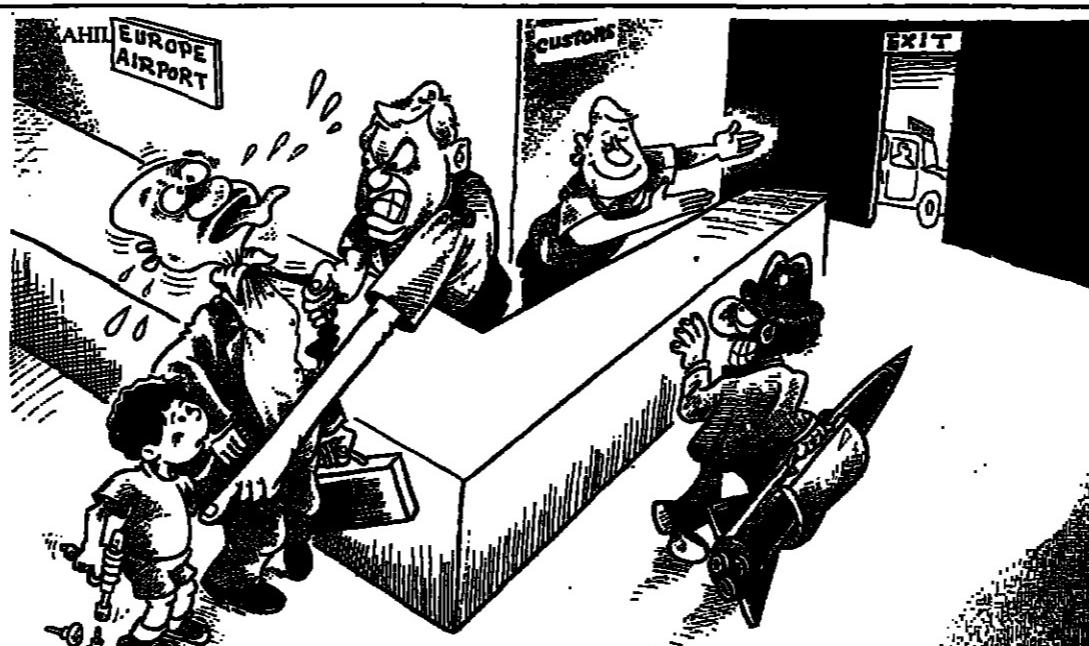
But Mr. McGregor, who is increasingly at odds with the general chamber of commerce he represents in the legislature, bemoans the failure of businessmen to offer China sound advice.

"People are becoming very reluctant to speak out," he said. "I wish people here would speak up more strongly, not necessarily against China but to say what Hong Kong people think."

But China, which has recruited 150 advisers in Hong Kong plus a committee to prepare for the handover, bears only what it wants to hear, he said.

"China will never select those who criticise," said Mr. McGregor. "(The advisers) will never provide a range of opinions, they will only provide one opinion."

**Save water ...
every drop counts!**



THE WEEK IN PRINT

Yemenis could use a truce; Israel's actions belie its words

Reviewed by Elia Nasrallah

THE DEVELOPMENT in Yemen and other Middle Eastern issues dominated topics discussed by the local Arabic press in the past week. Domestic affairs and pan-Arab questions were all correct.

Yemen is not in need of a river of blood and devastation to prove that Arab unity is feasible, said Taher Al Adwan, a columnist in Al Dostour newspaper.

The Yemenis should take a lesson from the civil wars that occurred elsewhere in the Arab World and should realise that war can only breed hatred that does not contribute to unity or to solidarity, said the writer. Should the war continue the situation in Yemen would be more or less like that in Yugoslavia and Somalia with foreign forces intervening in the country's affairs said the writer.

Saleh Ekkour, a columnist in Sawt Al Shaab daily, criticised the Arab League for referring the Yemeni crisis to the United Nations, demanding that it interfere to stop the fighting there.

These contacts raise our anxiety and suspicions because they mean a call for the internationalisation of the situation in the Yemen, said the writer.

The aggression on Lebanon is bound to delay any peace efforts along the Israeli-Lebanese track and would lay obstacles in the path of peace in general, said the paper. The timing of this crime, which coincided with renewed efforts for the resumption of the peace process, leaves no doubt that Israel does not wish to see any peace established in the region or to implement U.N. Security Council Resolution 425 on its withdrawal from Lebanon, said the daily.

By committing a new aggression against Lebanon, Israel is making it clear to the world that it is not concerned with any peace with its northern neighbour whose water continues to be stolen by the Jewish state, said Al Ra'i daily. Peace and crime can never meet and aggression can never contribute to the

success of peace talks along any of the Arab-Israeli tracks, added the daily. Words of condemnation on the part of the world community can by no means reduce the sufferings of the people, and only the implementation of U.N. resolutions and the end of occupation can bring back justice and stability to the whole region, said the paper.

Saleh Al Qallab, a columnist in Al Dostour, tackled the scheduled June 6 meeting in Washington by the U.S.-Israeli-Jordanian joint committee describing the meeting as a new effort to give impetus to the whole peace process.

The writer said he was optimistic that the success of this meeting would open the way for successes along the Jordanian-Israeli track and would pave the ground for a settlement of the Jordanian demand for the return of its occupied territories in the southern regions of the Dead Sea.

Nazih Jarrar, a columnist in Al Ra'i, criticised the United States for supplying long range war planes to Israel, saying that this would further enhance Israel's aggressive capabilities in the region. The writer said that the Americans intend to keep the Jewish state the dominant force in the region. Any peace that does not entail stripping the Zionist of their war arsenal can have no chance to survive, he added.

Mazen Hammad, a columnist in Al Dostour, considered Turkey's decision to resume border trade with Iraq as a welcome development that should be copied by all Arab states. The writer said that they are signs in the United Nations that the sanctions on Iraq are to be lifted with Russia, France and China supporting the lifting of the embargo and it is hoped that the Arab states would take the lead in ending the sanctions and force the world to open up trade links with

Sales tax takes effect

(Continued from page 1)

vising the implementation of an economic restructuring programme for the Kingdom.

It also cleared the way for an IMF certification necessary for the government to launch debt rescheduling talks with the Paris Club.

Despite the government explanations, the overriding feeling among consumers is scepticism generated by the two-and-a-half-year debate on the controversial levy.

However, the analysts and officials expect the scepticism to make way for welcome once the tax takes hold and is translated into some price benefits in the market.

"If the market forces opt to pass on the three per cent cut to the ultimate consumer then there will be a slight decline in prices of those items on which the rate of consumption tax was 10 per cent," said Fadi Fanek, a noted economic analyst and columnist.

But it is unlikely that retail outlets might do so, business men say. "It is an unwritten rule in the market that consumer prices do not go down once they go up," said a importer and retailer. "No one will be willing to take a chance and reduce prices when there is a feeling in the market that things are not clear."

The comment reflected a widely-heard complaint that the sales tax law, which cleared Parliament and was enacted on June 1 with the issuance of a Royal decree last month, was ambiguous and that merchants did not know how to handle it.

The local press carried commentaries critical of the levy, mostly quoting business circles arguing that the government should clarify the law and how it is being applied.

But, according to Dr.

Fanek and government officials, the law is relatively uncomplicated and that its implementation only involves importers and producers.

"Others have to do nothing

and there are no procedures involving the consumer or the retailer," said Dr. Fanek.

Dr. Fanek agreed in general with officials that there is little justification to complaints of ambiguity, pointing out that the tax will be levied at the points of entry to the Kingdom on imported products wherever applicable and at the departure points to the local market at factories whose annual turnover exceeds JD 100,000.

Finance Minister Sami Gammoh has said that the government intends to release a booklet explaining how the tax would be levied at the various points of entry into the market. The department which used to handle the consumption tax at the Ministry of Finance will be in charge of the sales tax.

A government official who preferred anonymity said: "It is simply naive and arguing for argument's sake that the law is ambiguous since the procedures of collecting the levy are simple and straightforward."

The official said the sales tax would be collected on imported products as applicable along with the customs duties and other levies and the importer has to maintain a record of the levy to avoid double taxation for producers who use imported raw materials in their products.

Accounts will be adjusted on annual basis and those who paid the tax on imports will be allowed to write off the payments against the net sales tax they pay for the products leaving their premises to the local market. Exports are exempt.

Dr. Fanek said he had expected the government to give it one or two months before actually enforcing the sales tax. "But obviously the government thought that the law could be abused by some circles and could spark more controversies than it could handle, and hence the enactment of the law as of June 1," he said.

'Jerusalem issue could spark war'

(Continued from page 1)

and spiritual values."

The Crown Prince and

Princess Sarvat were received upon their arrival in Amman by Their Royal Highnesses Prince Abdullah Ben Al Hussein and Prince Ghazi Ben Mohammad, other Royal Family members, Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali, speakers of the two Houses of Parliament, Cabinet members and senior officials.

Information Minister

Jawad Al Anani also returned from London on the same plane.

Crown Prince, Princess return

(Continued from page 10)

seminar on the Middle East peace process and addressed a conference organised by the London-based Inter-Parliamentary Council Against Anti-Semitism.

In his lecture at the seminar on the peace process,

organised by the Royal United Services Institute, the Crown Prince said the "worst" seems to be over in Arab-Israeli peace talks, but much remained to be done in the search for a just, durable and comprehensive settle-

ment.

In his address at the Inter-

Parliamentary Council

Gaza police chief talks tough

(Continued from page 1)

the rigors of training after only a week.

They couldn't keep up,"

Mr. Abu Zaideh said of the recruits from the Fatah Hawks,

the militant Gaza group aligned with PLO chief Yasir Arafat's mainstream Fatah organisation.

Mr. Abu Zaideh, himself a senior Fatah figure in

Gaza, spoke to Israel Television on Tuesday.

The Hawks responded on

Thursday by publishing a leaflet in the Gaza Strip threatening Mr. Abu Zaideh with violence.

But the army and

militants in the strip said

he had been hurt in the

attack was retaliation for

Thursday's Israeli raid on guerrillas of Lebanon's Hizbullah (Party of God) group.

While the Israeli army rejected the claim, Israeli military sources said an armoured vehicle travelling the Gaza road

had come under fire.

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he had been hurt in the

attack was retaliation for

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The Hawks responded on

Thursday by publishing a leaflet in the Gaza Strip threatening Mr. Abu Zaideh with violence.

No one was injured in

attack on the home of Mr. Elias

is designated to be the

center of tourism and a

Mr. Freij told the

Press that his home in

Bethlehem was hit by five

bombs at 8:30 p.m. local time (1700 GMT).

The Hawks had celebrated

with kisses, flowers, and gun-

fire in the air when the

Palestinian policemen arrived

from overseas in mid-May.

Some 150 Hawks immediately

signed on for the new force and

reported for training at a police

base in Jericho.

Weeks later, the goodwill

soured and half of the Hawks

were sent home.

They didn't anticipate discipline and serious training,"

Mr. Abu Zaideh said.

In Damascus, the Islamic Jihad

soldiers in the Gaza Strip on

Friday but the Israeli army

denied the claim.

Islamic Jihad, which opposes

the self-rule deal with Israel,

said in a faxed statement the

plan to carry out intensive reconnaissance flights

over the region (AFP photo)



Israel masses troops on Lebanon border

(Continued from page 1)

ing, violence," he said.

Israel accused Syria of sitting idly while guerrillas under its control plot attacks on Israel from Lebanon.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin told U.S. Ambassador Edward Djerejian at a meeting on Thursday to press Syria to rein in Hizbullah, an Israeli spokesman said.

Defending the raid Police Minister Moshe Shahal told army radio: "Syria sits with its arms folded. It doesn't prevent these actions. No question it has the ability to do so."

"Israel had no choice left but to defend its residents and civilians with the actions that were carried out," he said.

In Cairo non-aligned foreign ministers condemned the Israeli air raid, saying the action endangered Middle East peace.

Delegates to the 109-member group, gathering on the last day of a ministerial meeting, unanimously passed a resolution calling for immediate United Nations and big power action.

"Once violence is spreading, there is a threat to the peace process," Mr. Hambley said.

The United States was in contact with Israel, Syria and Lebanon to contain the violence.

Southern forces were securely in command of the Little Aden industrial area, site of the oil refinery. Their warplanes continued to take off from Aden airport to bomb northern troops.

Our interest is to try to put an end to these actions which are begetting violence. The cycle of violence is of no interest to anyone except for those who do not want peace," he said.

The ambassador called for "concerted efforts by all the parties concerned to calm down the atmosphere, to try and make it possible once again to make the peace process work."

Peace negotiations "cannot

take place in an atmosphere where there is shelling, bombing

Russia, to take action immediately to put an end to these acts of aggression and escalation in order to save the peace process from collapsing," the resolution said.

This new massacre perpetrated by Israel, and all previous Israeli acts of kidnap, terrorism and piracy in the depth of Lebanon, aims at torpedoing the peace process," it added.

The movement expressed full solidarity with Lebanon, both government and people and confirms its total support of the legitimate right of Lebanon to self-defence, by all means available, against the Israeli occupation."

Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharara said the attacks showed "Israel's pre-meditated intentions (of) seeking to destroy the peace process and do away with any chance of its success."

Egyptian delegate Nabil Al Arabi said the attacks "constitute a serious menace to the peace process."

The Palestine Liberation Organisation said the Jewish state was not following up peace talks with its Arab neighbours.

Islamists reject municipalities law

(Continued from page 10)

In a May 26 statement, the Brotherhood called on Zarqa residents to demand the government dissolve its appointed municipal council and restore the elected one. The statement said that Zarqa had witnessed great progress in providing services like electricity and garbage collection under the management of the previous council headed by Mr. Omari, whose priority was "to serve his people."

A conservative member of parliament who asked not to be named said that the government's decision to dissolve the municipal councils was probably prompted by a perceived fear of the Islamists' spreading popularity.

Despite the ambiguity clouding over the fate of the draft legislation, observers maintain that the main conflict is caused by a power struggle which involves three parties: the government, Islamists and centrist lawmakers.

Islamists realise that the government has more power than they do, and any mistake on their part might undermine the Islamic movement's growing influence on the street," added the lawmaker.

Government officials were not available for comment on the issue despite the accusations levelled at the executive authority.

Despite the ambiguity clouding over the fate of the draft legislation, observers maintain that the main conflict is caused by a power struggle which involves three parties: the government, Islamists and centrist lawmakers.

The Arab Jordanian Company For The Development of Private Education Rawdat Al-Ma'ref Schools and college (R.A.M.S.)



Foundation Year
 Mr. Basem Barakat, Director General R.A.M.S. / Amman, has signed an agreement with British Universities known as "Northern Consortium" to establish a Foundation Year at R.A.M.S. Amman. This ambitious project, will enable our high school graduates (without the need to study the GCE 'O' level / 'A' level programmes) to complete the requirements of a first year of university at R.A.M.S., and later join one of twelve well-known British universities for three years to obtain a degree. The implementation of this agreement is scheduled for the academic year 94/95.

The Northern Consortium consists of:
 University of Bradford, University of Huddersfield, University of Leeds, Leeds Metropolitan University, University of Liverpool, Liverpool John Moores University, University of Manchester, UMIST, Manchester Metropolitan University, University of Salford, University of Sheffield, Sheffield Hallam University.



From Left:
 Brian Jeremiah Deputy Chairman Northern Consortium
 Mr. Trevor Christie English Language University of Leeds
 Professor Colin Mc Gravy Shona Ferguson Assistant Registrar
 Dr. David Rivers Academic Co-ordinator Northern Consortium
 Mr. A. Barakat Director General of R.A.M.S.
 Jacqueline Brown International Office University of Leeds
 Mr. P. Adams Division of English Language University of Leeds
 Professor D. Holdcroft Chairman Northern Consortium

Non-aligned seek role

(Continued from page 1)

foreign ministers "noted the progress in the current contacts" between Iraq and the International Agency for Atomic Energy (IAEA) on implementing the U.N. Security Council resolution.

The final text was changed from the initial draft which only mentioned the Kuwaiti position calling on Iraq to respect its sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity.

But Iraq said the final version did not go far enough by leaving out any mention of the U.N.'s refusal to ease economic sanctions despite the suffering of its people.

An Arab delegate said before the vote that NAM should recognise Iraq's progress to prove that the organisation "has its own policies independent of the United Nations."

On Bosnia, the declaration called on the Security Council to enforce a ceasefire throughout the republic, beef up the mandate of the U.N. peacekeeping force (UNPROFOR), and consider deploying troops along Bosnia's border with rump Yugoslavia.

It also proposed a new international peace conference on Bosnia that would include Islamic and NAM representatives as well as permanent Security Council members, the European Union and the warring parties.

Rump Yugoslavia, though technically a non-aligned member, was not invited to the

N. Korea warns against sanctions

(Continued from page 1)

move was expected, but China, which has urged more dialogue, tried unsuccessfully up to the last minute to persuade the Security Council president to postpone Mr. Blix's appearance.

Mr. Blix was nonetheless en route for New York aboard the supersonic Concorde jetliner and was expected to address the Council late Friday, a U.N. spokesman said.

Officials from Japan, South Korea and the United States were to open talks in Washington Friday reportedly to discuss joint sanctions to be imposed against North Korea in the case of an unsuccessful U.N. measure against the country.

North Korea meanwhile test-fired another anti-ship missile over the Sea of Japan, a Japanese government source said.

It was the second known test-firing by the Stalinist state of an anti-ship missile this week. Tokyo and Washington had separately said North Korea fired the first one into the Sea of Japan on Tuesday.

The Japanese source played down the significance of the tests. A final plenary session of the meeting on Friday was expected to confirm the choice of Colombia to host the movement's next summit next year and take over its chairmanship from Indonesia.

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Israel seeks access to EU telecoms contracts

BRUSSELS (R) — Israeli Trade Minister Micha Harish urged the European Union (EU) Tuesday to open up EU government telecommunications contracts to bids by Israeli firms as a way of narrowing Israel's trade deficit with the EU.

Mr. Harish told a news conference that opinion among EU member states appeared divided on this request.

Some countries, which he did not name, expected Israel to make new trade concessions in return for such access, for example by granting wider access to EU bids for Israeli energy and municipal services contracts.

Mr. Harish said Israel should not have to make such concessions as it had already opened its market in such fields as electricity industry contracts without reciprocity by the EU.

Mr. Harish was speaking before completing a round of meetings with five EU commissioners during which he stressed the priority Israel attaches to research and development provisions of a new EU-Israel agreement.

Mr. Harish said negotiations on the agreement, which will replace a 1975 accord between the two sides, should be completed by the end of the year.

He said his country's main priority in the negotiations was to be able to participate as an equal partner in the EU's research and development activities.

"We would like to have a much clearer definition of research and development cooperation because that is the key," said the minister, adding that Israel was also expanding technological cooperation with the United States, Japan and China.

Mr. Harish said Israel had \$6 billion trade deficit with the EU last year, and that Europe's recession was the main factor holding back growth of EU-Israel trade.

Mr. Harish said rules of origin set out in the 1975 agreement should be altered to take account of changed trading practices followed the end of the cold war.

Specifically, in sectors such as textiles, he said that Israeli materials exported to the EU might be temporarily reexported to eastern Europe for finishing.

When reimported into the EU, they could then be subject to duty, a situation Israel would like to see changed since the use of eastern Europe plants was at the initiative of firms in west Europe, not Israel.

Weekly analysis of movements, trends of major world currencies

This report is provided by Naser Nabulsi, private client group at Merrill Lynch — Dubai. Rates, where applicable, are as of Wednesday, June 1, 1994

Overview

Fundamental View: The dollar appears to be stabilising against the yen and the Deutschemark, despite underlying negative sentiment. We have recently moved to a more neutral projection for the dollar against the Deutschemark, based mainly on the view that most of the news that might have been expected to help the dollar is already behind us. U.S. rates have moved up, but are expected to stabilise for a while or rise only marginally over the course of the year. Germany has eased policy more rapidly than expected, but is also likely to pause for some time this summer.

On balance, we now expect the dollar to remain in the DM 1.60-to-1.70 range for most of the next year, and have moved our 12-month target down from DM 1.75 to DM 1.70. We still expect Japan's trade surplus — politics or not — to keep upward pressure on the yen in the long term, and maintain our 12-month target of JPY/USD 95.

Technical View: Aided by a 0.2 per cent rally against the Japanese yen, the U.S. dollar index posted its third gain in four weeks, despite the fact that the greenback actually lost ground against four of the six currencies that we most regularly monitor. Sentiment for the dollar is generally viewed as oversold, and momentum for the dollar index (as well as against four of the six currencies) is viewed as bottoming-to-up. This improving environment suggests that the dollar's 1994 correction is on its last legs.

We continue, therefore, to anticipate a summer rally by the dollar. Support for the index exists at 91.20 and 90.30. The ability to rally back through 93.50-94.00 would add momentum and would add substance to the bottom-building argument; a move through 95.30 would likely confirm it.

Japanese yen

Fundamental View: An easing of trade tensions between the U.S. and Japan, together with fears of central bank intervention, has helped to stabilise the dollar at the 104.6 level against the yen. Market participants continue to be quite sensitive to every nuance in U.S.-Japan trade relations, but there is little doubt that U.S. policy makers have made a decision to put financial market stability ahead of trade goals for the time being. But the yen could prove to be difficult to stabilise because of Japan's financial problems and the sheer size of Japan's current account imbalance.

Even with the recent hike in U.S. interest rates and lower overnight rates in Japan, it is not clear that Japanese investors are willing or able to finance the imbalance after having suffered large losses on their foreign and domestic investments in recent years.

China pledges to focus more funds on farming

BEIJING (AFP) — The Chinese government is to invest 1.9 billion yuan (\$219 million) in its agricultural development programme this year, up by 200 million yuan over 1993, the China Daily has said.

Comprehensive agricultural development programme official Wang Xianjun said the funds would be used for development of crops, including grain and cotton, as well as be invested in forestry, animal husbandry, side-line production and fishery projects.

Some 25 billion yuan has been invested by central and local governments in the programme since it was launched in 1988, said Mr. Wang.

The official's comments come during a government campaign to demonstrate its renewed commitment to the development of agriculture, amid fears that disappointing summer grain and cotton harvests will heighten discontent among the country's 800 million farmers and boost national inflation.

In recent months, the government has moved to control grain prices — which surged 40 per cent in late 1993,

Thus, persistent dollar-buying efforts by the central banks may be needed for some time to come to keep the yen from breaking through the JPY/USD 1.00 level.

We continue to expect Japan to post a current account surplus of more than \$125 billion this year. We expect the weight of that surplus, relative to underlying private sector capital flows, to push the dollar toward our 12-month target of 95 yen.

Technical View: The Japanese yen fell 0.2 per cent versus the U.S. dollar during the week ended May 27. Sentiment remains neutral, but has been improving in recent weeks. Short term momentum continues to show signs of bottoming, so renewed yen strength is possible and at least raises the possibility of a challenge of the recent highs. Nonetheless, medium term indicators have peaked, so any near term strength will not likely be confirmed and may only serve to form a potentially important top. This would further build the evidence that the rally from at least last March's low (near 106 Y/U.S.\$), and quite likely from last January's low (near 113) is in its latter stages.

Given that long term oscillators are also deteriorating, the currency may in coming weeks be in position for its most extended period of weakness in months — possibly short term strength notwithstanding. Support at 106-112 is viewed as being significant; a breakdown through that range would do much to confirm the existence of a top. Benchmark resistance remains at 97-98.

Deutschemark

Fundamental View: We recently trimmed our forecast for the dollar against the Deutschemark (again), based mainly on the view that most of the news that might have been expected to help the dollar is already behind us. U.S. rates have moved up, but are expected to stabilise for a while or rise only marginally over the course of the year. Germany has eased policy more rapidly than expected in recent months, but is expected to pause for some time this summer because M-3 money growth at an annual rate of 15.8 per cent in March remains far above the Bundesbank's target ceiling of 6 per cent. German industry also appears to be pulling out of recession sooner than expected with industrial output in April up 4.1 per cent from a year ago.

With German inflation expected to fall to about 2 per cent early next year as short-term interest rates fall to 4 per cent, real interest rates in Germany actually seem set to rise relative to U.S. real rates. That view is based on our U.S. economics unit's forecast that the Fed funds rate will stabilise at 4.5 per cent for an extended period against steady CPI inflation of about 3 per cent. Moreover, any tendency for the dollar to remain weak against the yen could have spillover effects on European currencies as well.

On balance, we now expect the dollar to remain in the DM 1.60-to-1.70 range for most of the next year, and have moved our

12-month target down from DM 1.75 to DM 1.70.

Technical View: The Deutschemark rallied 0.2 per cent against the U.S. dollar last week. Medium term sentiment is at its most overbought reading since October 1992. Short term momentum has started to improve again, but only from a neutral condition. Medium term oscillators are peaking. This suggests that any short term strength may only serve to put the final pieces to a top in place. Nonetheless, a decline through 1.675-1.695 DM/U.S.\$ is probably still needed to indicate that a peak is, in fact, in place and allow for 1.72-1.73.

First resistance remains at 1.63-1.64, with second resistance at last October's high near 1.59. The mark/yen cross-rate remains in the 63-64 area. While medium term momentum is constructive, short term momentum is peaking. As long as this conflict remains in place, any nearby pullback is likely to be fairly well contained. Nearby support is at 1.62.25 and 1.62.40-1.62.80. The multi-month trading range, basing pattern remains intact.

Pound sterling

Fundamental View: The British pound continued to trade near DM/GBP 2.49 this week, but edged higher against the dollar to trade near U.S.\$/GBP 1.52. The pound has been unable to benefit from a rising short-term rate premium against the DM because of political uncertainty surrounding the June 9th European elections. A poor performance by the conservatives would significantly increase pressure on John Major to resign as prime minister. Additionally, the pound has been hurt by diminished anti-inflation credibility of the U.K. authorities following perceptions that the last base rate cut was politically motivated.

We believe that U.K. base rates have bottomed, but we think they are unlikely to be raised this year because we foresee no upward pressure on inflation in light of significant spare capacity. A modest uptick in U.K. short-term rates coupled with a series of sizable German rate cuts should lead the pound up to DM/GBP 2.55 in 12 months. The pound should also be supported by a substantial yield premium over German bonds.

We expect the pound to trade at U.S.\$/GBP 1.50 in 12 months as pound appreciation against the DM is roughly offset by DM depreciation against the dollar.

Technical View: The British pound rallied 0.3 per cent versus the U.S. dollar during the week ended May 27. Sentiment, while still neutral, has begun to deteriorate noticeably. Short term momentum is upwardly biased, but initial signs of deterioration are now evident. Reflecting the narrow multi-month trading range, medium term oscillators continue to show very little definition. First resistance exists at 1.52 U.S.\$/L, and second resistance is at \$1.55. The lower end of the trading range at \$1.46 is support; a break below that would allow for at least a test of the 1993 low near \$1.43 and possibly long term support at \$1.40-1.42. The DM cross-rate remains near its 1994 low despite recently firm near term momentum.

Those oscillators have started to deteriorate again, so lower lows are possible. However, medium term oscillators are still trying to bottom, so while a test of 2.43-2.44 is still possible, an important low may not be that far away. First resistance has been lowered to 2.515, with second resistance at 2.53-2.56.

Companies will be required to submit quarterly statements certified by their auditors that the funds have not gone towards any other purpose, such as retiring high-cost domestic debt and for short-term gains, like playing the stock market.

India sets rules for firms tapping foreign capital markets

NEW DELHI (AFP) — The Indian government has set rules and limits for companies tapping foreign capital markets following the failure of \$1 billion Euro-issue by its overseas telecom monopoly.

The finance ministry said it had decided to follow a "restrictive policy" towards corporations wishing to raise money abroad by floating convertible bonds.

Funds raised through the Euro-issue route would be treated as direct foreign investment and should ordinarily not exceed 51 per cent of the capital of a company, the ministry said in a press statement.

A company raising funds for purposes other than those specified by the government would need special approval from the government's Foreign Investment Proposals Board (FIPB), controlled by the prime minister's office.

No company will be permitted to sell equity abroad more than once a year. Government approvals for Euro-isues will be valid for no longer than three months.

The finance ministry said overseas money should be used up within a year for five "end-uses": "To finance capital goods imports, set up new plants, purchase equipment and real estate, repay external borrowings, and investing abroad."

Companies will be required to submit quarterly statements certified by their auditors that the funds have not gone towards any other purpose, such as retiring high-cost domestic debt and for short-term gains, like playing the stock market.

Miseries of Yugoslavia are a lure for Sri Lankan job-seekers

COLOMBO (AFP) — War-torn former Yugoslavia may be hell for many of its citizens, but for some Sri Lankans it holds the glitter of Eldorado.

Sri Lanka's Foreign Employment Bureau (FEB) and private recruitment agencies have received a flood of applications since they began advertising for jobs in former Yugoslavia last week.

"The response has been tremendous. Already we have sent 570 names to an American agency which is handling recruitment. We are processing more applications," said H. B. Seneviratne, chairman of the former FEB.

The latest jobs are in civilian support services for the United Nations Protection Forces (UNPROFOR), the 32,500-man peacekeeping operation in Bosnia and Croatia, he said.

"A condition for most posts is that the applicant already has had military service.

Sri Lanka's traditional foreign job market is the Middle East, where some 500,000 Sri Lankans are working now.

But at the moment the former Yugoslavia — where life has been dangerous and isolated

pays far more.

"A carpenter will be able to get monthly salary of 25,000 rupees (about \$500). The same type of work fetches a maximum of 10,000 rupees (about \$200) a month in the Middle East," Mr. Seneviratne said.

Besides carpenters, there are also vacancies for cooks, computer programmers, engineers, surveyors, customs officers, fuel tank drivers, plumbers and operators for communications and construction equipment.

"We had to get cabinet approval for this scheme. This is a big job order and a first experience for us," Mr. Seneviratne said.

The Sri Lankan government is also hoping to win job contracts from Malaysia, Japan, South Korea, and from the reconstruction of Lebanon and the new autonomous Palestinian regions in the Gaza Strip and Jencho.

Recruitment for the foreign manpower market has become a roaring business here. There are 257 licensed private job agencies, but dozens of others have been operating illegally in a bid to avoid official regulations governing recruitment procedures.

Warsaw to sell 49% of Lot

WARSAW, Poland (AP) — The Polish government plans to sell 49 per cent of Lot, the country's national airline, the transport minister has said.

"It is time to privatise our flag carrier Lot," which has a book value of about 2.2 trillion zlotys (\$98 million), Minister Boguslaw Liberadzki told the PAP news agency. The sale of 49 per cent of the airline's stock would not have to go to a single investor or to another airline Mr. Liberadzki said.

On May 10, Lot agreed to share traffic information and coordinate flight schedules with American Airlines. The agreement paved the way for American to acquire part of the Polish carrier, but Mr. Liberadzki indicated that American was not seen as a potential strategic buyer.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Plan how to add to present income so that you can be happier in the future. Express happiness with your loved one.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Analyse your position well and know where you are headed in financial and property matters. Be logical in what you are attempting to accomplish.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Study the situation at home and know how you can best improve it. Evening is fine for entertaining friends and relatives.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) A good day for improving routines and gaining cooperative allies. Avoid one who has been interfering in your personal and professional affairs.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Plan how to add to present income so that you can be happier in the future. Express happiness with your loved one.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Study your innermost yearnings and later you can make plans to go after them successfully. Engage in your favourite hobby for some peaceful time.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Plan how to improve conditions around you. The evening can be a happy time in the company of congenial friends.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY JUNE 4, 1994

By Thomas S. Pearson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Delays and obstacles in the path of your goals may make you feel that you are not working at the right pace or proceeding in the right direction. Recheck your previous sources of information.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) This is an ideal day to get some special skill perfected. Be careful about taking risks of any kind. Side-step a troublemaker who will cause problems.

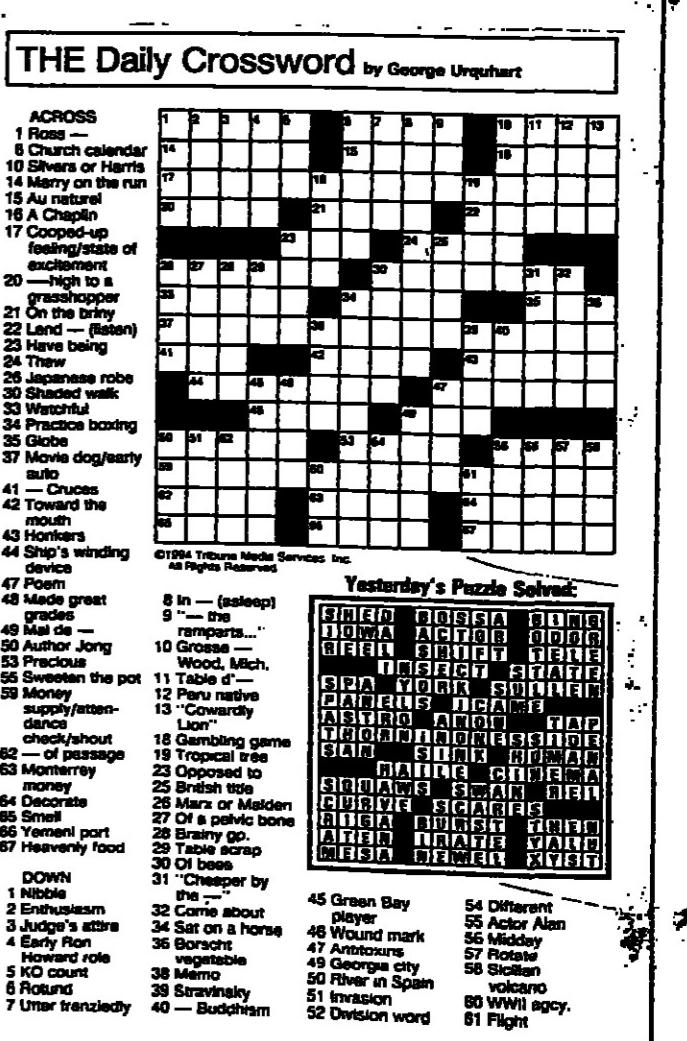
TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Study the situation at home and know how you can best improve it. Evening is fine for entertaining friends and relatives.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) You have important duties to handle now so don't procrastinate at this time. Take steps to improve your appearance to those in charge.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Try to please your associates more and they will do likewise toward you. Take positive steps to gain your aims and desires.

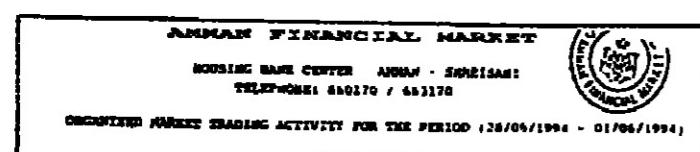
PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Figure out the best way to improve your surroundings. Situations come up now that can bring benefits you had not expected to occur.

THE Daily Crossword



Economy

JORDAN TIMES, SATURDAY, JUNE 4, 1994



DAILY JORDAN TRADING ACTIVITY FOR THE PERIOD (28/05/1994 - 01/06/1994)

| COMPANY'S NAME | TRADING VOLUME | PREV. PRICE | OPENING PRICE | CLOSING PRICE |
|--|----------------|-------------|---------------|---------------|
| | JD | | | |
| AMAN BANK | 799,125 | 189.000 | 189.000 | 187.900 |
| JORDAN NATIONAL BANK | 181,700 | 7.570 | 7.520 | 7.500 |
| JORDAN INDUSTRIAL BANK | 1,000 | 4.100 | 4.150 | 4.400 |
| MIDDLE EAST INVESTMENT BANK | 140,150 | 3.060 | 3.020 | 3.000 |
| THE HOSPITAL BANK | 44,278 | 5.100 | 5.100 | 5.110 |
| JORDAN AGRICULTURE BANK | 110,710 | 3.190 | 3.120 | 3.120 |
| JORDAN JEWISH INVESTMENT BANK | 23,170 | 2.100 | 2.100 | 1.900 |
| JORDAN ISLAMIC BANK | 48,798 | 4.200 | 4.200 | 4.200 |
| JORDAN BANK FOR SAVING & INVESTMENT | 6,561,443 | 4.120 | 4.080 | 4.030 |
| JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK | 7,385 | 4.900 | 4.770 | 4.770 |
| JORDAN GLOBAL SAVING INVESTMENT FOR HOUSING | 898 | 3.900 | 3.900 | 3.900 |
| JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCIAL CORPORATION/JORDAN PETROLEUM INVESTMENT BANK | 37,740 | 4.450 | 4.400 | 4.400 |
| JORDAN NATIONAL SHIPPING LINES | 185,237 | 1.970 | 1.950 | 1.950 |
| JORDAN INSURANCE & SPA COMPLEX | 1,655 | 4.400 | 4.200 | 4.250 |
| NATIONAL PORTFOLIO SECURITIES | 95,700 | 2.120 | 2.120 | 2.120 |
| REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT | 1,500 | 4.400 | 4.350 | 4.350 |
| THE NATIONAL AERIA INSURANCE | 6,337 | 1.930 | 1.920 | 1.900 |
| AL-ETIB AL-ARABI INSURANCE | 1,548 | 3.800 | 3.750 | 3.700 |
| JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER | 192 | 4.200 | 4.150 | 4.150 |
| JORDAN PETROLEUM COMPANY | 155,445 | 2.960 | 2.930 | 2.930 |
| JORDAN NATIONAL SHIPPIING LINES | 1,115 | 4.100 | 4.050 | 4.050 |
| JORDAN NATIONAL HOLDING COMPANY | 95,239 | 2.120 | 2.120 | 2.120 |
| JORDAN LIFE INSURANCE | 4,118 | 1.780 | 1.680 | 1.680 |
| JORDAN PENSION INSURANCE | 121,891 | 4.940 | 4.900 | 4.970 |
| JORDAN TELECOM | 1,136 | 1.870 | 1.820 | 1.850 |
| YATRA ENTERPRISES & EQUIPMENT LEASING | 10,125 | 1.950 | 1.900 | 1.950 |
| MACHINERY SUPPLY, MAINTENANCE & REPAIRS | 5,469 | 1.620 | 1.600 | 1.600 |
| UNITED MIDDLE EAST & CONCORDE HOTELS | 201,159 | 7.100 | 7.000 | 6.950 |
| JORDAN INVEST. FOR INVESTMENT & EDUCATION | 81,799 | 4.240 | 4.000 | 3.960 |
| JOSEPH COHEN & CIGARETTES | 7,700 | 1.700 | 1.650 | 1.650 |
| THE JORDAN CEMENT FACTORIES | 311,296 | 2.810 | 2.750 | 2.750 |
| JORDAN PETROLEUM REFINERY | 181,148 | 19.050 | 16.180 | 16.180 |
| WOOD INDUSTRIES | 6,129 | 1.970 | 2.040 | 2.040 |
| THE JORDAN INDUSTRIAL & AGRICULTURAL | 1,540 | 4.100 | 4.100 | 4.350 |
| THE JORDAN WOOLTEX MILLS | 13,140 | 1.800 | 1.750 | 1.750 |
| JORDAN PHARMACEUTICAL MANUFACTURING | 136,744 | 7.050 | 7.000 | 7.050 |
| JORDAN CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES | 10,198 | 3.820 | 3.700 | 4.100 |
| THE JORDAN PLASTIC MANUFACTURING | 51,728 | 3.820 | 3.820 | 3.820 |
| THE JORDAN PETRO CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES | 12,730 | 16.400 | 16.000 | 16.100 |
| SPINNING & WEAVING | 181,891 | 2.640 | 2.700 | 2.770 |
| RAPHA INDUSTRIES | 86,916 | 2.430 | 2.400 | 2.440 |
| JORDAN GLASS INDUSTRIES | 52,418 | 1.180 | 0.370 | 0.400 |
| JORDAN PETROLEUM & INVESTMENT | 40,200 | 18.100 | 18.100 | 17.900 |
| JORDAN INVESTMENT & INTERNATIONAL TRADE | 41,197 | 1.740 | 1.740 | 1.400 |
| JORDAN ALUMINUM INDUSTRY | 87,306 | 8.900 | 8.900 | 8.320 |
| LIVESTOCK & POULTRY | 39,371 | 1.130 | 1.080 | 1.090 |
| ABAD PAPER CONVERTING & TRADING | 1,140 | 1.380 | 1.370 | 1.380 |
| SOUDANIC INDUSTRIAL CORPORATION | 1,911 | 2.400 | 2.400 | 0.840 |
| INTERMEDIATE PETRO-CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES | 63,700 | 1.680 | 1.680 | 1.680 |
| JORDAN ROCKWOOL INDUSTRIES | 92,795 | 2.800 | 2.770 | 3.150 |
| UNIVERSAL CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES | 63,987 | 2.050 | 2.000 | 2.010 |
| ALLIED POLYTHENE LTD. | 12,080 | 6.120 | 6.180 | 6.000 |
| JORDAN INDUSTRIES & MARKETING | 11,140 | 1.700 | 1.700 | 1.700 |
| JORDAN PLASTIC CONCRETE INDUSTRY | 10,497 | 1.050 | 1.020 | 0.990 |
| JORDAN MOOD INDUSTRIES / JMC | 7,552 | 3.370 | 3.310 | 3.300 |
| NATIONAL CABLE & WIRE MANUFACTURING | 48,907 | 5.900 | 5.900 | 5.750 |
| JORDAN CENTER FOR PLASTIC & CHEMICALS | 25,347 | 6.150 | 6.100 | 6.150 |
| JORDAN KUNST CO. FOR AGRI. & FOOD PROD. | 2,127 | 1.700 | 1.700 | 1.700 |
| JORDAN POLYESTER PROCESSING AND MARKETING | 72,022 | 3.110 | 3.100 | 3.050 |
| MARTINS INVESTMENT | 9,169 | 0.770 | 0.730 | 0.740 |
| UNIVERSAL MACHINES INDUSTRIES | 481 | 0.950 | 0.950 | 0.970 |
| GRAND TOTAL | 11,774,581 | | | |

| COMPANY'S NAME | TRADING VOLUME | PREV. PRICE | OPENING PRICE | CLOSING PRICE |
|---|----------------|-------------|---------------|---------------|
| | JD | | | |
| GENERAL TRADING & STOCKAGE | 33,100 | 1.000 | 1.000 | 1.000 |
| JORDAN TRADE FACILITIES | 93,850 | 1.480 | 1.370 | 1.340 |
| JORDANIAN EXPLORATIONS INVESTMENT HOLDING | 57,140 | 1.600 | 1.520 | 1.500 |
| ABAD FOOD & MEDICAL APPLIANCES | 4,570 | 1.200 | 1.200 | 1.130 |
| JORDAN PETROLEUM CO. | 19,862 | 1.720 | 1.720 | 1.720 |
| MATERIALS CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES LTD. | 95,631 | 2.100 | 2.100 | 2.100 |
| NATIONAL TEXTILE & PLASTICS IND. CO. | 8,765 | 1.370 | 1.350 | 1.370 |
| JORDAN KID CABLE COMPANY | 28,183 | 2.170 | 2.070 | 2.120 |
| NATIONAL MULTIFIBER INDUSTRIES | 100,832 | 1.880 | 1.840 | 1.700 |
| JOHN DEERE TRACTOR & EQUIPMENT CO. | 154,740 | 2.190 | 2.150 | 2.170 |
| INTERNATIONAL TOBACCO & CIGARETTES | 3,472 | 2.640 | 2.510 | 2.400 |
| GRAND TOTAL | 544,732 | | | |

Financial Markets in co-operation with Cairo Amman Bank



| Eurocurrency Interest Rates | | Date: 1/6/1994 |
|-----------------------------|--------|----------------|
| Currency | Bid | Offer |
| U.S. Dollar | 0.6050 | 0.7000 |
| Sterling Pound | 1.0570 | 1.0673 |
| Deutsche Mark | 0.9400 | 0.9500 |
| Swiss Franc | 1.1300 | 1.1300 |
| French Franc | 5.3100 | 5.3100 |
| Japanese Yen | 1.1400 | 1.1400 |
| European Currency Unit | 0.6060 | 0.6700 |

| Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin | | Date: 2/6/1994 |
|---|--------|----------------|
| Currency | Bid | Offer |
| U.S. Dollar | 0.6050 | 0.7000 |
| Sterling Pound | 1.0570 | 1.0673 |
| Deutsche Mark | 0.9400 | 0.9500 |
| Swiss Franc | 1.1300 | 1.1300 |
| French Franc | 5.3100 | 5.3100 |
| Japanese Yen | 1.1400 | 1.1400 |
| European Currency Unit | 0.6060 | 0.6700 |

| Other Currencies | | Date: 2/6/1994 |
|------------------|----------|----------------|
| Currency | Bid | Offer |
| Bahrain Dinar | 1.6350 | 1.6480 |
| Lebanese Lira | 0.040645 | 0.042055 |
| Saudi Riyal | 0.1558 | 0.1567 |
| Kuwaiti Dinar | 2.3110 | 2.3150 |
| Qatari Riyal | 0.1895 | 0.1905 |
| Egyptian Pound | 0.2075 | 0.2150 |
| Omani Riyal | 1.7450 | 1.8090 |
| UAE Dirham | 0.1895 | 0.1905 |
| Greek Drachma | 0.1665 | 0.1735 |
| Cypriot Pound | 1.5265 | 1.4350 |

| London Exchange Rates | | |
|-----------------------|-----------|--|
| | | LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at mid-session on the London Foreign Exchange and Bullion markets Friday. |
| U.S. \$1.00 costs | 1.3844/54 | Canadian dollar |
| | 1.6592/02 | Deutschmarks |
| 1.8600/10 | | |

Rwanda rebels overrun refugee centre

NAIROBI (Agencies) — Rwandan rebels have overrun the government-controlled area of Kabgayi where thousands of Tutsi refugees are crowded into camps, a Red Cross official said Friday.

"The RPF (Rwandan Patriotic Front) strolled in yesterday," the official said. The official said he had heard of the capture from Red Cross colleagues working in Kabgayi, a former Roman Catholic seminary 50 kilometres southwest of the capital Kigali.

Thousands of mainly Tutsi civilians have sheltered in Kabgayi during the last eight weeks of fighting but government troops and Hutu death squads occasionally pulled refugees from the squashed camp and killed them, witnesses said.

Aid workers said on the weekend they were afraid that the retreating government forces and Hutu militias — who are blamed for butchering 500,000 people since the fighting started — would go on fresh killing sprees.

Meanwhile, U.N. soldiers came under fire here Friday while evacuating civilians trapped in hostile territory despite promises of safety from rebels and the army, a U.N. military spokesman said.

Aristide urges U.S. military action against

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Desirous that sanctions can do the trick, exiled Haitian President Jean-Bertrand Aristide urged a U.S. intervention to depose Haiti's military leaders, in an interview published Friday in the Washington Post.

"The action could be a surgical move to remove the thugs within hours," Mr. Aristide said in the strongest statement to date in favour of military intervention.

Mr. Aristide doubted that the sanctions imposed on May 21 by the United Nations on Haiti would force the military leaders who deposed him in 1991 to step down.

"If we really want to save lives, something else should be done now," the former Roman Catholic priest said.

The sanctions, which cover everything except humanitarian aid, have been criticised for hurting the poorest Haitians the most, while the military caplains and the well off appear to get by smuggling goods easily across the border from the Dominican Republic.

"Haiti is not the first case. When things were like that in another country, something was done. Why not in Haiti?" Mr. Aristide said recalling the U.S. invasion of Panama in late 1989 that deposed strongman Manuel Noriega.

Mr. Aristide, the first democratically-elected president in his country, said, however, that he was against a U.S. occupation of his country after an invasion.

"Once we do that, we could have the international community in the country within the framework of agreements we have already signed. Not in the framework of a military intervention," he said.

Once it became clear that the Haitian military would not honour a peace agreement they signed in July with Mr. Aristide and were determined to resist sanctions and other international pressure, U.S. President Bill Clinton said he did not rule out military action to restore democratic rule in Haiti.

But besides the difficulty of dislodging the top brass from power — Mr. Aristide said it would take a few hours, U.S. analysts are unsure what and how long it would take to help the country consolidate democracy.

Mr. Aristide set out a four-point beginning with the military action, followed by the arrival of international military experts to retrain the police and the army, then his own reinstatement as head of government, and ending with large scale international development assistance for his country.

Reassuring those who wonder if he would turn against the United States if he were reinstated — his left-leaning policies during his six months in power distanced him somewhat from Washington, Mr. Aristide said he shared "mutual interests" not just

Nobody was hurt in the attack in the Rwandan capital, which is under rebel siege. Major Jean-Guy Plante said.

U.N. officials believed that a "local commander" from the rebel Rwandan Patriotic Front or the army had ordered his men to fire on a convoy as the action was out of line with the stated policy of both sides, he added.

The convoy ferrying civilians to government-held territory from the Amahoro Stadium behind rebel lines was shot at while driving through the notoriously dangerous Qadafi Crossing on Kigali's northwestern outskirts, Maj. Plante said.

Nobody was hurt, but bullets hit one vehicle as the convoy drove towards government territory.

"The convoy made it through, dropped off the civilians, and was then shot at again on the way back," Maj. Plante told reporters. In all, 2,000 people have been evacuated from Kigali, 250 of them Friday.

U.N. Deputy force commander Brigadier Henry Anyidoho went to investigate the shooting. But his armoured vehicle also came under fire near the Qadafi Crossing, where the rebels and the army were "engaged in a firefight," Maj.

Plante said. It was impossible to say which side had fired at the U.N. troops, he added.

"We have lodged strong protests with both sides, and further evacuation operations are on hold until we obtain new guarantees of security," Maj. Plante said.

The shooting came a day after rebel and army commanders meeting for U.N.-mediated truce talks agreed to cooperate with the U.N. in evacuating thousands of stranded civilians and distributing food, and provided assurances of safety for U.N. troops.

Another convoy meanwhile safely delivered 180 civilians trapped at the Sainte-Famille Church in a government-held area to the rebel-controlled town of Kabuga, about 15 kilometres east of Kigali. The army has repeatedly accused the rebels of firing at evacuation and relief convoys.

At the Sainte-Famille Church, up to 8,000 civilians including many minority Tutsis are encamped in squalor with little food and water in an area controlled by Hutu government forces, which are retreating as the mainly Tutsi rebels advance.

Many people sheltering

there complained that Hutu militiamen were raiding the church at night, abducting and killing men, and raping women. Extremist Hutu militias have been blamed for much of the bloodletting sparked by the April 6 death of President Juvenal Habyarimana.

Up to half a million people, mostly Tutsis and Hutu opposition supporters, have been hacked, bludgeoned, burned or machine-gunned to death. "We were badly treated by the Interahamwe (militias)," said Marie-Josée Murebwayire following her evacuation to Kabuga after six weeks at the church. "They used to come at night to take boys to kill and girls to rape," said Ms. Murebwayire, 30, a mother of four whose husband was hacked to death in the first few days of the bloodbath.

When white U.N. trucks delivered 180 evacuees to Kabuga, many hugged and kissed relatives in scenes of wild rejoicing as they were reunited after two months of terror and uncertainty. But Ms. Murebwayire and her children stood silent and alone.

"All our relatives have been killed," she said. "My brother is in America, how can I go there?"



A British soldier guides a U.N. helicopter into a landing zone situated in a field outside the central Bosnian town of Zepce. British U.N. forces are ready to patrol the area which straddles areas controlled by the now allied Bosnian Croat (HVO) and Bosnian Army forces (AFP photo).

Mount Igman overlooking Sarajevo.

Meanwhile, the Clinton administration has joined its European allies and Russia for the first time to forge a detailed peace proposal for Bosnia based on a near-even split of land between the contending forces, the Washington Post reported Friday.

Washington had resisted backing specific outlines for a territorial solution between a Muslim-Croat Federation and a breakaway Serb force, although U.S. officials recently approved in principle a 51 per cent to 49 per cent division of land with the Muslims and Croats receiving the bare majority, the newspaper said.

The contact was asked to reach both a ceasefire and a political solution by a major power ministerial meeting in Geneva last month, which endorsed a European Union plan that Bosnian Serbs should keep 49 per cent of the territory.

As the two men met, Mr. Akashi's spokesman said there had been some Serb withdrawal from Gorazde.

But he said he saw little chance of the talks starting Friday even if the Serbs did pull out.

"There has been some withdrawal and it's a significant withdrawal," spokesman Michael Williams told reporters.

"Nevertheless as of eight o'clock this morning there still remained armed Serb elements within the three-kilometre zone in and around the town of Gorazde."

Mr. Williams added: "As far as the numbers are concerned, frankly it doesn't matter if there's one or 101, there would still not be the basis for going ahead with the talks."

Bosnian Muslims and their new Croat allies, who have made ground against the Serbs in recent weeks, both say that any ceasefire should not last more than one or two months, to prevent Serb territorial gains being consolidated.

They also say any ceasefire imposed without progress first on Bosnia's future ethnic map might not be respected.

In the meantime, international mediators were forced to hang around Geneva with no negotiating to be done — reminiscent of a similar boycott in Geneva last year while Serb forces lingered on the strategic

Indonesia bans Schindler's List

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP) — Indonesian film censors have banned the Oscar-winning movie Schindler's List, saying it contains too much violence and nudity. Soekanto, executive director of the Film Censorship Board, said the decision was reached at a full meeting of the board. The board earlier had passed the film by Steven Spielberg, though it had ordered some cuts of "sadistic and nudity scenes." Islamic leaders called the film Jewish propaganda and insisted that it be banned.

Mr. Soekanto said, however, the board did not consider whether or not the film propagates Zionism. "We didn't base our decision on that matter. It's purely because of the nudity and sadistic action," he added. Schindler's List won seven Oscars in February's American Academy Awards presentation. It depicts the story of a German war profiteer who saved the lives of more than 1,000 Polish Jews from the Nazis. Controversy over the film also arose in Thailand, the Philippines and Malaysia. However, Manila and Bangkok, under public pressure, have allowed it to be shown without cuts.

Japanese bosses still anti-women, minister says

TOKYO (R) — A Japanese minister said Friday that Japanese employers still believed men did a better job than women, and he urged employers to break the mould by hiring female graduates. Economic Planning Agency Minister Yoshiro Terayama said Japanese women received unequal treatment from employers. "Of course there are a lot of good women students around," Mr. Terayama told a news conference. "I suspect employers still have outmoded ideas that boys do better jobs than girls do." Mr. Terayama said he had told his cabinet colleagues Japan lagged behind other industrial countries in that it was still arguing about equal rights. "It's a waste. I regret that foreign banks and securities companies are snatching away good women graduates while Japanese firms are giving up on them," said Mr. Terayama, who came from the securities industry. The cabinet has set up a working group to help women students

Anti-IRA chiefs killed in U.K. helicopter crash

LONDON (R) — Leaders of Britain's intelligence war against the IRA were killed Thursday when 29 people died in a helicopter crash in thick fog on a remote Scottish headland, police said.

The giant twin-rotor Chinook, flying Belfast to a security conference in the Scottish city of Inverness, exploded in a fireball after slamming into a hillside on the remote Mull of Kintyre.

Rescue workers found one man alive in the flaming wreckage on the mist-shrouded headland but he died soon afterwards.

"There were bits of bodies everywhere," said mountain hiker Russell Elcock, one of the first witness on the scene of the crash in western Scotland.

The Chinook is the main military workhorse used by British armed forces.

A spokesman for its U.S. manufacturer Boeing told BBC Radio Friday: "I think the Chinook safety record is a good one."

The Royal Air Force's 30 Chinooks are at present being sent to Philadelphia in a long-term modernisation refit programme.

The crash site was sealed off in a tight security cordon Friday as investigators sifted through the widely dispersed wreckage to piece together the flight's last fatal moments.

"These people were right at the heart of intelligence. These were the men who made the special branch tick. It is a devastating blow," he said.

But detectives ruled out sabotage and Scotland's Stratford Police Chief Leslie Sharp said: "At this time there are no

S. Africa plays down whites-only referendum

JOHANNESBURG (R) — The South African government Friday played down the possibility of a referendum for white Afrikaners seeking a white Africa.

Government spokesman Jeti Netshitenzhe acknowledged that during an interview with Reuters, President Nelson Mandela had mentioned a referendum as one of the mechanisms that could be used to unite the people of South Africa.

"He went further to say the issue of mechanisms still need to be discussed. This shows that he was just giving an example. Nothing else but an example," Mr. Netshitenzhe told Independent Radio 702.

He did not say what other examples of possible mechanisms were.

In Thursday's interview, the first with an international news organisation since his inauguration as the country's first black president, Mr. Mandela told Reuters: "We want to allow Afrikaners themselves to express themselves on this issue."

Asked if a whites-only vote or referendum would be tested to test Afrikaner desires, Mr. Mandela said:

"The whites, the Afrikaners will have to vote, because if we throw the matter to the country as a whole, they will have to decide what is best for the community wants us to do.

"If the Afrikaner community as a whole, or the majority, is in favour of a Volkstaat (homeland), our view will take one form. But if the majority of the Afrikaners say they do not want a Volkstaat, then we will take a different view," he added.

"We want everybody to have no doubt in his or her mind that we will do what the community wants us to do.

"If the Afrikaner community as a whole, or the majority, is in favour of a Volkstaat (homeland), our view will take one form. But if the majority of the Afrikaners say they do not want a Volkstaat, then we will take a different view," he added.

Pro-apartheid right-wing parties boycotted April's historic all-race elections, demanding a separate homeland for Afrikaners.

Hoping a peaceful solution would be found to assuage right-wing fears about black majority rule following last month's historic elections, Mr. Mandela had met several white separatist leaders.

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"The whites, the Afrikaners will have to vote, because if we throw the matter to the country as a whole, they will have to decide what is best for the community wants us to do.

Europe had gone wrong in recent years.

Conservative strategists may find some consolation in the fact the poll was carried out between May 25 and May 30 before Mr. Major launched his series of attacks on European Union integration.

They are reported to believe in their concept of a multi-paced Europe in which member states progress at different speeds offers the best hope of persuading Tory supporters to vote.

It also confirmed shadow home secretary Tony Blair's substantial lead over his potential Labour rivals in the race for the Labour leadership, which will begin the day after voting in the European elections.

But as details of the poll leaked out Thursday night, Prime Minister John Major —undaunted— launched into his most forthright electioneering so far, saying he was unrepentant about criticism of the European Union and insisting

that he would not moderate his approach to Europe, he said: "I will be critical where I must. Difficult if I can be. I would rather speak up and put the case for what I know to be right for Britain than clink glasses in agreement with something that

is wrong."

He repeated his condemnation of the social chapter of the Maastricht Treaty, saying: "The social chapter sounds fair. But what is fair — or moral — about making it harder for people without jobs to get back into work?"

Although the surge in Labour support may prove to be a temporary response to John Smith's death, Tory party managers are reported to fear Labour will receive another boost with the expected election of shadow home secretary Tony Blair to the leadership next month.

The Gallup poll carried out before the withdrawal Wednesday of shadow chancellor Gordon Brown, one of Mr. Blair's main rivals in the contest, found that Mr. Blair had nearly double the support of his nearest rival.

But the prospect that Mr. Blair could be elected unopposed brought the first signs of disunity in Labour's ranks since the loss of its leader John Smith, who died last month.

Poll: U.K. Tories 33 points behind Labour in run-up to European elections

LONDON (R) — Britain's ruling Conservative Party languishes 33 points behind the Labour opposition and faces the prospect of humiliating defeat in the June 9 European elections, according to a Gallup Poll appearing Friday.

The poll in Friday's Daily Telegraph estimates support for the Conservatives at just 21 per cent, half a percentage point behind the Liberal Democrats at 21.5 per cent, while Labour with 54 per cent looks set for a landslide victory.

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is wrong."

He repeated his condemnation of the social chapter of the Maastricht Treaty, saying: "The social chapter sounds fair. But what is fair — or moral — about making it harder for people without jobs to get back into work?"

Mr. Major said most army units loyal to the Cambodian People's Party (CPP), the political wing of the former Vietnamese-installed government, had been withdrawn from frontline duty along the southern Route 10 highway.

Replacements from royalist and other non-Communist battalions had been deployed in their place, he said. The reason for the move was unclear.

The royalists and the CPP formed a coalition after the elections and merged their armed forces. But while the 160,000-strong army is now officially unified, most battalions have remained loyal to

their respective leaders.

Mr. Kosal told Reuters the army had encircled a large force of Khmer Rouge at Sdao district 38 kilometres south of Battambang and inflicted a major defeat on them.

He said more than 300 Khmer Rouge had been killed since their victory at Pailin on April 20, five had been taken prisoner and another 100 had fled.

Sports

Van Basten decides against World Cup

NOORDWIJK, Netherlands (R) — AC Milan striker Marco Van Basten has decided against joining the Dutch World Cup squad for the finals in the United States this month, a Dutch Soccer Union spokeswoman said Friday.

Van Basten was invited to become the 22nd player in the Dutch squad after Rudi Gullit left the Dutch training camp Monday without offering any reason.

Dutch coach Dick Advocaat has called in Anderlecht striker John Bosman in place of the three-times European player of the year.

Van Basten, who has not played since May last year,

said Thursday he had told Advocaat he was ready to replace Rudi Gullit.

"I told him I am all right," Van Basten said. "If Gullit hadn't left the team, I would have stayed behind at Mianello training. Given that this opportunity has come up, I'll go and train in America instead."

But according to Dutch media AC Milan has since urged Van Basten not to go as it was still too early to play at the top level. The club said that they were loyal to him after his two ankle operations and expected him to return that loyalty by not risking another ankle injury in the United States.

Pacers are one victory away from NBA finals

INDIANAPOLIS, Indiana (AFP) — Reggie Miller is dominating basketball games the way Michael Jordan once did.

As a result, the surprising Indiana Pacers are one victory away from the National Basketball Association (NBA) finals.

"He just moved up to the next level," Indiana guard Byron Scott said of his back-court mate. "People are starting to realize what kind of player he is. Now all he has to do is do it one more time."

Miller scored 25 of his 39 points in the fourth quarter, rallying Indiana from a 12-point deficit to a 93-86 victory over New York in game five of their semi-final series.

"Everything was happening in slow motion," Miller said. "I could see what defenders were going to do before they did it."

"That was a Michael Jordan game," New York coach Pat Riley said. "That was a Michael Jordan quarter."

The Pacers, who had never won an NBA playoff series before this year, can eliminate the Knicks with a triumph here

late Friday. New York must win to even the best-of-seven series and force a deciding game. Either way, the NBA finals start Wednesday in 32 dead.

"We're stunned. The Knicks are stunned. I know I'm stunned," Indiana forward Antonio Davis said. "Nobody expected this. But here we are."

Most stunned is New York's Patrick Ewing, who guaranteed two months ago his club would win the title. After being kept to a career-low one point in game three of the series, Ewing has watched the Pacers win three straight.

"It hurts, but it doesn't break our spirit," Ewing said. "We still believe in ourselves."

Miller is becoming more featured in NBA advertising. His friend with Knicks' fan and film director Spike Lee is also drawing attention. The Knicks will not respond to Miller's taunts, so he gives them to Lee in his court-side seat. Miller made choking motions and several choice comments to Lee during his run of five 3-points shots in the fourth period Wednesday.

Carson poised for rare golden double

EPSOM, England (R) — Willie Carson is poised to repeat one of horse racing's rare doublets — winning the Epsom Derby and Oaks in the same season.

After a thrilling success on Erhab in Wednesday's Derby, Carson partners the talented but highly-strung Bulaxie, 13-8 favourite for Saturday's Fillies' classic.

Carson did the Derby-Oaks double in 1980 on Henbit and Bireme and 14 years on, at the age of 51, there is nothing to suggest his powers are on the wane.

His performance on Erhab will dwell in the memory, the ex-champion conjuring one of the best finishes to a classic for years.

Carson, who complained long and loud about the number of no-hoppers in Wednesday's race, will be happier with the start and going down by just a short head to La Meninas.

Provided Bulaxie does not become too stirred up in the preliminaries, she has the class and form to win, although she faces some substantial challenges.

French-trained Bonash (11-

4) kept her unbeaten record in the group three Prix Vanteaux at Longchamp last month, showing a fine turn of speed to settle the issue over nine-furlong (1.9 km) trip which is far shorter than that for which

she was bred.

There is every reason to believe that she will be a much better filly now that she is given the chance to tackle a mile and a half (2.4 km).

Pat Eddery riders for trainer Andre Fabre and owner Khaled Abdullah — a powerful combination.

Bulaxie (6-1), bids to provide Dubai-based trainer Hisham Ibrahim with his first British classic success.

She nearly did the trick in the English 1,000 Guineas at Newmarket in April, when with only two wins in Minor Company as a juvenile behind her, she was sent off on unfancied 20-1 shot.

But she made those odds look very generous with a fine display under Frankie Dettori, racing prominently from the start and going down by just a short head to La Meninas.

There is every reason to expect her to prove at least as effective over this longer trip, given the way she battled on strongly all the way to the line in the one mile (1.6 km) Guineas.

Wind in Her Hair (7-1) is unbeaten in her two races this season and trainer John Hills will be hoping for some compensation following Broadway Flyer's disappointing Derby run.

Bruguera, Berasategui to stage all-Spanish French Open final



Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario (R) and Conchita Martinez kiss after their French Open semi-final Thursday which Sanchez won 6-3, 6-1 (AP photo)

Pierce looks forward to historic win

PARIS (R) — Emerging talent Mary Pierce bids to become the first French Open for 27 years when she meets Spaniard Arantxa Sanchez Vicario in Saturday's final.

Twelfth seed Pierce, who delighted the home fans by demolishing world number one Steffi Graf in straight sets in a semifinal clash Thursday, said she was not afraid of second

match.

"I controlled the match better this time," he said. "I was feeling I had more power than him. I could move him around. He could not attack as well as last year, and that gave me more confidence."

"At times he pressed me. More often than not I just made loose mistakes," said Courier, the No. 7 seed.

"What I lacked in the defining moments of the match was aggression. I didn't play really hard, but I didn't play well."

Bruguera reached the semi-final without losing a set. Courier, though not as dominant, played well in a four-set victory over top-seeded Pete Sampras in a quarterfinal Tuesday.

Australian Leslie Turner in the 1967 final.

Graf, who was widely fancied to win her fourth title on the Paris clay in the continued absence of Monica Seles, summed up Pierce's abilities thus:

"She plays faster than Monica and she hits the ball just as hard."

Pierce, whose rise has come as good news for women's tennis, baldly wanting somebody to challenge the big names, will need all her strength to move past gritty Sanchez Vicario, in the Paris final for the third time.

"Her very strong and if she plays like she played against Graf, I really can't see how she could be beaten," said Francoise Durr, who scored France's last win in the women's tournament, beating

court 6-2 6-2 Thursday. Sanchez Vicario has no single stroke to compare with Pierce's devastating forehands and penetrating backhands but her solid all-round game and her fighting spirit can work miracles.

Sanchez Vicario, who beat Graf in the 1989 final, has not been quite as impressive as Pierce in the previous rounds but she nevertheless managed to reach the final without dropping a set in her typical battling style.

"My game has improved in many ways," she said after trouncing compatriot Conchita Martinez 6-3 6-1 in the semifinals. "Now I can attack and be more aggressive."

"I know everybody will want Mary to win but I don't care," she added. "I'll just try to play everything together and hopefully things will go my way."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Maradona threatens World Cup walkout

BUENOS AIRES (AFP) — Diego Maradona has again threatened to withdraw from Argentina's squad which is finalising preparations for the World Cup with a match against Croatia in Zagreb Friday. Press reports here said for the third time in four days Maradona had threatened to quit the side, this time following a row over the selection of another player. Speaking in Vienna Thursday, the Argentine captain said he was tired of the "lack of organisation" of team selection. Maradona's latest remarks follow a row over the omission from the squad of Dario Franco, the 29-year-old midfielder who plays for Real Zaragoza in Spain.

McCallum is temporary champion

MEXICO CITY (AFP) — The World Boxing Council (WBC) has officially named Jamaica's Mike McCallum as their interim light heavyweight champion, but the WBC is still leaving the door open to Australian Jeff Harding. Harding was stripped of the title for failing to put it at stake since Dec. 3, 1992. He was injured in training shortly before he was due to face American Randall Yonker in Las Vegas March 4, and withdrew from the fight.

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Please call 685512, 8am - 7pm.

Nazek Al Hariri Charity Centre for Special Education

Handicrafts Exhibition

The Vocational Rehabilitation Centre at Nazek Al Hariri Charity Centre for Special Education will hold its annual handicrafts exhibition — carpets, rugs, woven material as well as bamboo and straw works — at the centre's premises in Dabood, Amman between June 5 - 12, 1994.

The exhibition will be open for the public from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m.

For more information please call: Tel. 847171/2 or Fax: 847173.

FOR SALE

1983 Chevy Blazer, 350 V-8, 90,000 miles, 4X4WD, duty not paid multisystem stereos VCR, Sony stereo, CD player, Sega W/Mortal Combat, weight lifting equipment, desk.

Sale June 10, Abu Hanifa St., BLD. 35 (Two blocks south of Amra Hotel).

Call 810-684

Announcement

The Regional Office of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies is looking for suppliers of food commodities: rice, lentils and vegetable oil.

Potential suppliers can introduce themselves by fax, number 694556, within one week of the date of this announcement

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Newly unfurnished apt for rent for diplomatic missions. A first floor with separate entrance, consists of three bedrooms, three bathrooms, living room, L-shaped sitting and dining room, servant's room with bathroom. Located at Al Rabiah area.

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(Al Salam Ya Salam)
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Rw Jordan is keen on Arab economic blocs, but no solid Syria-Lebanon move yet

By Ayman Al Safadi
Jordan Times Staff Reporter
AMMAN — Even though Jordan supports economic integration among Arab states, no concrete steps have been taken to form an economic alliance grouping the Kingdom, Syria and Lebanon, in former, sources said Friday.

"Economic integration is a Jordan requirement, but the Kingdom will not enter into economic or political groupings before preparing the solid foundations for them from the first," said a source, close to the government and the Royal Court.

Aid to the government and the Royal forces reported Thursday that Jordan, Syria and Lebanon had been discussing the formation of an economic cooperation council similar to the now defunct Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) which grouped Jordan, Egypt, Yemen and Iraq. The ACC, which reportedly antagonised some Gulf states, collapsed immediately after the eruption of the Gulf crisis in 1990.

The agency quoted unidentified political sources in Jordan as saying the proposed alliance would aim at "countering the repercussions of the Palestinian-Israeli economic agreement" on the economies of the three countries.

The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) signed an economic agreement with Israel in Paris in April and the deal was ill-received by Syria and Lebanon and invited the

condemnation of some economic experts in Jordan.

Jordan's past experiences with regional alliances rendered it cautious when discussing the formation of such groupings, the source said. The source said the formation of the council was floated by Lebanese Foreign Minister Fares Bouez who was briefed by Lebanese Parliament Speaker Nabil Berri on discussions the latter held on the issue with Jordanian parliamentarians during his visit here last month.

But the discussion with Mr. Berri did not go beyond the expression of some Jordanian parliamentarians of their belief in the viability of economic cooperation with Lebanon, sources said.

Other informed sources said Syria had floated the issue with the Kingdom recently, but Jordan reiterated its position that solid groundwork had to be carried out before translating such ideas into reality.

"How could you have economic integration with Syria which does not have an ambassador in Jordan yet and where Jordanian television transmission is jammed?" the source said.

"Syria still has strong ties with allies who would not support such a project," said the source in reference to Gulf states which worked against the Arab Cooperation Council.

"But since the intention is there, technical committees

could start working to discuss practical steps for realising the grouping," said the source, pointing out that Jordan believes in joint Arab action not only on the economic arena but also on the security and political ones.

The source said that economic integration with Syria and Lebanon would be governed by regional and international politics and Jordan is aware of the limit to which Arab-Arab relations could go.

Jordan and Syria took large steps towards economic integration in the late 1970s but the Kingdom was then punished by neighbouring countries which stopped their aid to the Kingdom in anger, the source said.

While in Britain the Crown Prince met with eminent British personalities, including the Duke of Edinburgh, gave a lecture at a

(Continued on page 5)

Crown Prince, Princess Sarvath return home

AMMAN (J.T.) — Their Royal Highnesses Crown Prince Hassan and Princess Sarvath returned home last night after a private visit to Britain, during which they became grandparents for the first time.

The Crown Prince and Princess Sarvath, who began the visit on May 7, attended the birth of twin grandchildren, Zein Al Sharaf and Tareq, born to Her Royal Highness Princess Sunayyah and her husband Nasser Judeh, who is director of the Jordan Information Bureau in London. The twins were born on May 9.

While in Britain the Crown Prince met with eminent British personalities, including the Duke of Edinburgh, gave a lecture at a

Royal Family and Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali (Petra photo)

Their Royal Highnesses Crown Prince Hassan and Princess Sarvath are received upon their return home on Friday by members of the

COLUMN

Taiwan women MPs involved in wrestling match

TAIPEI (R) — Taiwan women legislators screamed, traded slaps and kicks and pulled each other's hair in a fight during a National Assembly session Friday. Su Chih-Yang of the Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) walked up to the rostrum and slapped Kuo Su-Chun of the ruling Nationalist Party whom she accused of insinuating that she had sat immobile. The slap triggered a brawl in the assembly for the fourth day this week. Nationalist deputy Lin Chang-Ju rushed to Mr. Kuo's rescue and jumped on Ms. Su. These two women grabbed each other's hair and repeatedly slapped each other in the face while Ms. Kuo stood by stunned and broke into tears. Two other women deputies joined the fracas, trading kicks and wrestling.

Ma Ai-Chen of the Nationalist Party fainted amid the fighting and was rushed to a nearby hospital. Ms. Su had earlier demanded an apology from two male Nationalist deputies for peeking at her panties when she was staging a sit-down protest in front of the podium in the assembly chamber Tuesday. Ms. Kuo later insinuated that Ms. Su had invited the attention of the men by wearing a short skirt.

As a woman, one should be cautious about what one wears and how one acts," Ms. Kuo told the assembly before she was slapped. The Nationalist leadership demanded Ms. Su be barred from attending the remainder of the assembly's three-month session, which ends in July. A tearful Ms. Kuo told a news conference she would sue Ms. Su for publicly insulting her. The DPP leadership defended Ms. Su, saying she was not to blame because Ms. Kuo had a male chauvinist attitude.

Clinton honours heroes of Italian campaign

NETTUNO, Italy (Agencies)

— President Bill Clinton on Friday commemorated World War II allied landings in Italy with a pilgrimage to the final resting place of 7,862 U.S. troops and a meeting with veterans of the 1943-1944 Sicily-Korea campaigns.

Mr. Clinton, the first U.S. leader born after the war and first post-war commander-in-chief without military experience, flew from Rome by helicopter to the U.S. cemetery just east of the Anzio beachhead where 100,000 allied and German troops died.

Under an overcast sky, the 47-year-old president solemnly strolled among the white marble headstones, stopping to decorate some of the graves with tiny American flags.

Later, speaking in front of a sculpture of an American soldier and sailor standing with arms draped around each other's shoulders, he saluted those who fought to free Italy and Europe from Nazi tyranny 50 years ago, saying they fought "to save the world."

He singled out U.S. senators Bob Dole, Ernest Hollings, Daniel Inouye and Caliborne Pell — who all saw combat in Italy — and his own late father, William Blythe, a tank mechanic who wrote to a niece from the front that blazing guns had stripped all the leaves from the trees.

"Fifty years later, we can see the difference their generation has made. America is strong, freedom is on the march, here in Italy the glorious trees, like the country, have been restored to life," Mr. Clinton said.

Speaking on the eve of the 50th anniversary of the liberation of Rome by U.S. troops, he told his audience: "We are the sons and daughters of the world they saved. Now our moment of common cause has come. It is up to us to assure a world of peace and prosperity for yet another generation."

Both Mr. Dole and Mr. Inouye were wounded in Italy.

Mr. Dole is the Senate Republican leader. Mr. Hollings, Mr. Inouye and Mr. Pell are Democrats like Mr. Clinton. Mr. Dole's right shoulder was shattered by German machine gun fire, and Mr. Inouye lost his right arm to a grenade.

Mr. Clinton spoke to some 1,000 veterans and guests on a hot, hazy day. Italian jets spewing green, white and red smoke — the colours of the Italian flag — flew low over the site after Mr. Clinton spoke.

Italian President Oscar Luigi Scalfaro and Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi also attended with Mr. Clinton.

"It is inevitable that we ask ourselves why — why war, why destruction and why death?" Mr. Scalfaro said. The answer

Clinton, Pope discuss Mideast, page 2

(Continued on page 5)

At least 164 killed in waves sparked by Indonesian quake

JAKARTA, Indonesia (Agencies) — Ocean waves triggered by a strong earthquake hit villages along the coast of Indonesia's eastern Java early Friday, killing at least 164 people and destroying hundreds of homes, officials said.

The doctors are demanding salaries equivalent to those of physicians working at the University of Jordan Hospital and military hospitals in the Kingdom.

A list of demands and organisational matters provided to the Jordan Times mentions "improvement of the financial situation of the Ministry of Health doctors that would enable them to lead a dignified life and would prevent good doctors from leaving government hospitals."

It also emphasizes the need to hire good specialists at these

hospitals in order to improve health services and maintain a standard comparable to that of the other medical institutions.

The demands sparked a strike about two years ago and continue to be an issue over a two-tier system of granting allowances, putting the doctors into the category of "before 1988" and after.

According to a paediatrician who spoke on condition of anonymity, "we will go to work normally, but will not work between 10 a.m. and noon; we will only treat emergencies if needed."

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